Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-96-013 *19 January 1996*

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Political Reaction

Russia: 'Text' of Yeltsin Address on Events in Dagestan

LD1801191896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1839 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today addressed the Russian citizens in view of the completion of the terrorist act by Dudayev's fighters in the Republic of Dagestan.

Here is the full text of the address, released by the press service of the Russian president:

"Address to the citizens of Russia.

"The operation to put an end to the terrorist action by Dudayev's fighters in the Republic of Dagestan was completed today on 18 January.

"The operation was forced on us. The bandit group was holding innocent people hostage for several days. The federal authorities and the leadership of the Republic of Dagestan used all possible peaceful means. The terrorists repeatedly refused to meet their commitments and acted more and more brazenly and outrageously.

"Unfortunately, there are casualties among servicemen and civilians. The responsibility for this lies with Dudayev and his fighters. Terrorism has no nationality. We have never identified bandits and the Chechen people and never will.

Dudayev's fighters have virtually lost the hope to receive support of the Chechen general public. Sowing death and destruction on Dagestani soil — in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye they made an attempt to spread their activities to other regions and hold at ransom not only the Chechen people, but also the peoples of North Caucasus as a whole. They will never succeed!

"I address the people of the Chechen republic: Help the authorities and law enforcement bodies to neutralize fighters. Those who have trampled on all the norms of mankind must take just punishment.

"I am calling on the peoples of Dagestan and whole North Caucasus and on the Cossacks to show restraint. Common sense rather than revenge must unite us in defending Russia against the threat of terrorism.

"We used to say it before and we repeat: Our aim is to restore constitutional order and peace in Chechnya. If armed bandits want to prevent us from achieving our aim, they will know no mercy. Concessions to terrorism are unacceptable. Impunity gives rise to new crimes. This must be clear to all who are still planning to intimidate the Russians and demoralize the Russian authorities, and who are hoping to interfere with the peaceful life in the Russian Federation.

[signed] B. Yeltsin.

18 January 1996."

Yeltsin Cited on Pervomayskoye Operation

LD1801164496 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jan 96

[Remarks by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at a news conference in Moscow on 18 January — recorded; from the "Novosti" program; first paragraph is station introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main news of the day: Boris Yeltsin has reported that the operation to eliminate the militants in the village of Pervomayskoye has been completed.

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] So, I tell all the journalists that the Pervomayskoye operation has been completed with minimal losses amongst the hostages and amongst our people. All of the bandits have been exterminated, if no-one is hiding underground. Eighty-two hostages have been freed. Eighteen are missing. It may be that they are hiding somewhere, that they have run off somewhere. Well, they must still be considered alive and they must be sought. At present, special search groups have been set up. They will remain there for two days and will be engaged solely in this work. It may be that they escaped to a neighboring village.

In short, Dudayev has been given a fundamental lesson, a fundamental one. And now it is necessary to strike at Dudayev's strong points where there is no civilian population in order to put an end to Chechen terrorism on Russian territory. It has already spread to Turkey, as you see. So, it cannot be tolerated further. It is spreading to other countries. It is already international terrorism.

One must make note of the Dagestani militia units. As Kulikov says, nowhere else has the militia acted in such an internationalist spirit as in Dagestan. They returned and literally, you know, well the Avars have always been a combative people, a patriotically combative people. They did really did very good work, very good. Well, of the 250 members of the Alpha group, two were wounded. It is coming back here with a full complement. Twenty six of our military men died, unfortunately.

There are mountains of weapons there, mountains of them. There was a Dudayev stronghold there with earth-works, pill-boxes, underground passageways between

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the houses, lots of special constructions, combat equipment, including heavy combat equipment. When I said, here in the Kremlin, that the operation was planned to last just one day, we did not know that these mud-brick houses, mud- brick houses such as they have in the south, that under the ground there was a vast Dudayev stronghold. It had been set up long ago and maintained.

Barsukov and Kulikov will hold a press conference and they will tell you and show you films, show you the diaries of some of these bandits. Well, in general, the press conference will be a large and substantive one so that tomorrow at the press conference about the CIS you will not pester me with this question. [end recording]

The figures which the president has just cited were reported to him at 1530 Moscow Time [1230 GMT]. It is possible that they may be up-dated later.

Yeltsin: 350 Terrorists Attacked Kizlyar, Dagestan

LD1901102296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1019 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Taking part in the raid on the Dagestan town of Kizlyar were 350 terrorists, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated here today, opening a plenary meeting of CIS leaders. Immediately after its opening, the Head of the Russian State informed the CIS leaders on the operation to free the hostages and wipe out the group of terrorists in Dagestan.

According to the Russian President, 29 of the 350 terrorists were killed in Kizlyar. About 320 terrorists then proceeded in buses to Pervomayskoye, taking with them approximately 110 hostages. Yeltsin stressed that the last figure was given on the basis of estimates made by the hostages themselves.

One hundred and fifty three terrorists were killed during the operation of the federal troops to free the hostages in Pervomayskoye. Thirty raiders were captured. "All the villagers of Pervomayskoye have remained alive," the president stated. Twenty-four civilians were killed in Kizlyar and several people wered wounded. The federal troops lost nine men killed and 42 wounded in Kizlyar, Yeltsin stated.

He said that the federal troops lost in Pervomayskoye 26 men killed and 93 wounded. "Most of the hostages were freed as a result of the operation," Yeltsin noted. He also said that a group of terrorists tried with the support of bandits from Chechnya to break out of the encirclement on the night from January 17 to 18, hiding behind the backs of women and captured policemen".

"This is a tragedy, and we are grieving about it, but we had no other choice," the President stressed.

Yeltsin: Chechen Dudayev Had Well-Equipped Terrorist Base

LD1801141496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] MOSCOW, 18 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The operation in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye is over, 82 hostages have been freed, 18 are reported missing, and the troops' losses total 26 servicemen. [passage omitted]

"When I said that the operation would last 24 hours, we did not know that Dudayev had had a stronghold underground for a long time. There were piles of weapons. There were Dudayev's strong points with concrete pillboxes, fighting bunkers with heavy overhead cover, with passages between houses and special installations; there was armor. When we planned to complete the operation in 24 hours, we had no idea that Dudayev's base had been built and maintained for a long time behind those clay huts," Boris Yeltsin emphasized informing the newsmen of some details of the operation.

Mikhail Barsukov and Anatoliy Kulikov will soon hold a news conference, and show the diaries of some bandits, as well as documentary footage and photographs, the head of state said.

"Kulikov reported to me that the Dagestani militia acted very well. Nowhere has a militia acted in such an international manner as in Dagestan," the president added.

Yeltsin Tells Kohl of Pervomayskoye Operation's End

LD1801163196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1423 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 January (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin informed German Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the completion of the operation in Pervomayskoye during a telephone conversation today, an official spokesman for the press service of the president told ITAR-TASS.

Boris Yeltsin and Helmut Kohl discussed the prospects for Russo-German relations and agreed that a meeting of the two states' foreign ministers would be held in the very near future.

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Russia: Chernomyrdin Cited on Saving Lives in Pervomayskoye

LD1801134796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1318 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — "According to our information, on Wednesday evening there were no more hostages left in the village of Pervomayskoye," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today. He referred to information from those in charge of the operation to free the village of Pervomayskoye of terrorists.

The Russian prime minister was holding a news conference in Government House after a meeting with Azerbaijan's leader Heydar Aliyev at which a Russian-Azerbaijani economic agreement was signed, among other things.

The prime minister expressed hope that on completion of the neutralization of the Dudayev terrorists in Pervomayskoye "important conclusions will be drawn as the causes of the tragedy are investigated." On criticism made of the Federal authorities for being slow to act against the terrorists, the prime minister said that he "does not accept this criticism, because it was justified by the fact that everything was being done to save people's lives."

For his part, Heydar Aliyev said that the border between Russia and Azerbaijan is reliably sealed and that no assistance is being given to the Chechen separatists from the territory of Azerbaijan.

Russia's Lobov Says Dialogue with Dudayev Now Improbable

LD1901105096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — "The probability of a dialogue between Dudayev, as a political leader, and government structures of the Russian Federation has diminished, I believe," Secretary of the Russian Security Council and Presidential Plenipotentiary Representative in the Chechen Republic Oleg Lobov told the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper "GROZNENSKIY RABOCHIY". His interview was published in today's issue of this private newspaper, which is printed in Mineralnyye Vody and circulated mainly in Chechnya and Ingushetia.

Lobov corroborated his view by the fact that Dudayev's latest steps did not leave any grounds for optimism, because "he is increasingly evolving from a political leader into a man obsessed in terror or mastermind of terroristic acts".

The Presidential representative noted that Dudayev should have sought political recognition "primarily through contacts with local governing bodies and leaders of the Chechen Republic, who had repeatedly stressed the possibility of such a dialogue for the sake of peacefully settling outstanding problems". However, Lobov expressed doubts concerning the feasibility of this method at the current juncture.

Assessing the reasons of the Kizlyar tragedy, the Secretary of the Russian Security Council said that "one could, of course, refer to the shortcomings of our power structures, but the main reason of the tragedy is, without doubt, the extremism of Dudayev's men, who did not exclude terroristic acts from their arsenal".

Lobov said that individual facts gave grounds for saying that foreign forces are exerting an influence on the development of the situation. He referred to the collection of money in Turkey for Dudayev's fighters and the setting up of a pro-Dudayev Chechen Centre in Poland.

Lobov assessed as "positive" the role played by the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Groznyy.

Turning to the problem of the withdrawal of federal troops from Chechnya, Lobov said that this could be done on condition that "Dudayev's men lay down arms and all the problems are settled only through talks, and also through the holding of elections and referendums". Moreover, he noted that this did not refer to troops that would be permanently deployed on Chechen territory.

The Secretary of the Russian Security Council believes that Chechnya's foreseeable political future depends on the consolidation of governing structures, both local and republican. He stressed that "professionals should come to power in the republic's state structures, because the 1996 programme for the restoration of the Chechen economy and social sphere is MUCH [capital letters as received] more difficult and comprehensive than last year's programme".

Russian Duma Speaker Urges Sanctions Against Terrorists

LD1801171396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — New lower house speaker Gennadiy Se-

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leznev on Thursday urged to tighten legislative sanctions against terrorists, evidently responding to recent hostage-takings in Chechnya-bordering Dagestan.

"Only prosecutors, and not parliament deputies, must contact terrorists," Seleznev, who was promoted by communists, told reporters in Moscow.

The speaker said the Duma should not restrict itself to solely "political statements concerning Chechen developments," but should provide a "solid legislative support aiming to cease the conflict and restore the destroyed Chechen economy."

He also added that the Duma was drafting a law on the Security Council aiming to speed up its response to vital problems, including ones related to Chechnya.

Russia's Barsukov Satisfied With Pervomayskoye Operation

LD1801202696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to news agencies, Mikhail Barsukov, director of the Federal Security Service [FSB], and Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov are to fly to Moscow to report to the president. This afternoon they gave a field news conference for the journalists who have been outside of Pervomayskoye and have been receiving very scanty information throughout the operation. [passage omitted]

[Begin Anatoliy Kulikov recording] Unfortunately, we did sustain losses in the fighting, inter alia among the civilian population, but they are incommensurably small compared with what could have happened. In general, we are satisfied with the progress of the operation, performance by our subordinates and a well-organized coordination between army units, the Federal Security Service and Interior Ministry units. [end recording]

Our film crew has managed to visit the outskirts of Pervomayskoye. The rebels who were trying to break out of the village were stopped by federal troops. Only between 15 and 20 out of a group of about 40 men managed to escape. The corpses of terrorists, ammunition, and a satellite telephone were left at the scene. The leader of the terrorists [Salman Raduyev] was not found among those killed. The Dagestan Ministry of Internal Affairs is actively searching for the rebels who escaped. Among them, according to the FSB, there were not only Chechens. [passage omitted]

Most of the released hostages are currently at filtration points. According to the latest information, among them could be accomplices of the terrorists.

[Begin Barsukov recording] At the moment I can say unequivocally that during the operation we have just carried out we did not find a single dead hostage. But we have information that they buried some of the hostages, in particular, we did not find the corpses of five people who, according to our information, were killed in the village of Pervomayskoye. We are looking for them: an operation is under way now. [end recording]

The clearing of the village of mines will start already today. [video shows Barsukov, Kulikov speaking to journalists; rebel corpses; captured rebels or hostages]

Russian Official: Salman Raduyev Remains at Large

LD1801174296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PERVOMAYSKOYE, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — The leader of the Chechen gunmen, Salman Raduyev, was not found among those killed and captured in the village of Pervomayskoye, the hostage release headquarters told INTERFAX Thursday evening. Five women, members of the gang, also disappeared, a federal officer added.

The headquarters said Raduyev and the women could have escaped when a group of Chechen gunmen tried to break through the federal positions last night.

"In fact, the Chechen suicide group was left to its fate as a counter-attraction," the headquarters added.

The federal forces seized satellite communications equipment the gunmen had used to contact Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Pervomayskoye was fully seized by federal troops at 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Thursday night and maybe Friday [19 January], they will clear all the houses, basements and trenches where gunmen could be hiding.

Inter-Chechen Talks Begin Near Groznyy

LD1901115596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — A meeting between representatives of Chechen head Doku Zavgayev and supporters of Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev started today in a settlement in the Groznyy region, spokesman for the Chechen head Ruslan Martagov told INTERFAX Friday.

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"The inter-Chechen dialogue involves Dudayev supporters, who are sober-minded and want to stop the bloodshed in the republic," he said.

Last night was relatively calm in Groznyy. The admission regime in the Chechen capital was somehow eased after the end of the hostage-freeing operation in Pervomayskoye, Dagestan.

Railroad traffic with Groznyy has not been restored since December fighting between federal troopers and Dudayev gunmen in Gudermes, Chechnya's second largest city. "The track is dismantled in the Gudermes area, and it is hard to say who did it: militants or railroad workers," said Martagov.

He noted that the Chechen capital has only air communications with other Russian regions.

Chechen Foreign Minister Comments on Pervomayskoye Hostages

MS1801122996 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 17 Jan 96

[Telephone interview with Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef, by presenter Jeremy Paxman; Yusef in Istanbul, Paxman in the London studio; from the "Newsnight" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Paxman] Well I am joined now on the telephone by the Chechen Foreign Minister Shamseddin. Mr Yusef does the Chechen government in exile support these hostage takings?

[Yusef] No we did not agree for that taking civilian hostages, but it happened in the Pervomayskoye, so, now the Russian's said the Chechen fighters killing all the hostages, all the hostages is not true...

[Paxman, interrupting] How do you know it is not true?

[Yusef] Because two hours ago the [word indistinct] President Mr — calling me from Groznny, from [word indistinct] and telling me, because there is some lying between the fighters and the government, they said this not true, they will not kill any of hostages — three days ago the Russians killed 15 of the hostage by fighter by bombing their places, which there are the hostage there...

[Paxman, interrupting] Mr Yusef...

[Yusef] And in [?Mosque]...

[Paxman, interrupting] I am so sorry to interrupt you, but this is very important, so two hours ago how many hostages from that conversation do you understand were still alive?

[Yusef] There is a — they said all the hostage they are alive, maybe there is wanted some of them, they are alive, still they are alive, the Russians are lying when they are said the Chechen troop — the Chechen fighters killing the hostage, it is not true, no any hostage will we kill, never kill Chechen, never kill hostage...

[Paxman, interrupting] Mr Yusef can I ask you about what you think the west ought to be doing?

[Yusef] They have to make some arrange to stop this bloodshed, because if they did not do it now in the future it will be very difficult to do, because the — both sides, the troops of the both sides they are becoming terrorists, some Russian and some Chechnya, then nobody can control them, then the troops will come to Europe, how they control them?

[Paxman] What do you mean the troops will come to Europe?

[Yusef] Maybe I am not sure about that, but I have some information that Russian troops, that Russian some groups are acting as a mafia, and they did not take orders from their government.

[Paxman] Mr Yusef thank you so much for joining us, thank you.

[Yusef] Your are welcome.

Dagestan: 'Mopping Up' Continues in Pervomayskoye

LD1901075296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — "A mopping up operation was continued in the Dagestan village of Pervomayskoye throughout last night after Dudayev's terrorists were routed there," First Deputy Chief of the Public Relations Centre of the Russian Federal Security Service Aleksandr Zdanovich told ITAR-TASS today. No living or dead terrorists were found there. The work of armymen is complicated by the fact that the approaches to the village and many houses may be mined. There was no news today about the whereabouts of terrorist leader Salman Raduyev. In any case, he was not identified among the killed bandits.

Director of the Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov told journalists on Thursday that some terrorists had escaped from Pervomayskoye. Raduyev might have been among them.

ITAR-TASS was told at the Dagestan Interior Ministry that there was no shooting or fighting in the area of Pervomayskoye last night. Flares were parachuted over the village. The villages of Pervomayskoye and Sovetskoye are tightly encircled by federal troops. No outsiders are allowed into them, including journalists.

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Officials of the Dagestan Interior Ministry fear that there may be mines in those villages and in the adjoining territories. Sappers and rescuers from the Dagestan Emergency Situations Committee began work there today morning.

According to verified data, six Dagestan policemen were killed and seven wounded during the Thursday night battle with Dudayev's gangsters at the Sovetskoye village. They are all from different districts and towns of the republic. Funerals of the killed policemen will be held in Makhachkala, the republic's capital, in the town of Kizilyurt, and in Babayurt district.

Russian Gen. Rokhlin Cited on Combating Chechen Terrorism

MK1901115096 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 19 Jan 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Lev Budberg: "In Expectation of Big Blood"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General Lev Rokhlin, the most popular troop commander in the Chechen war, presented a report in the Duma on measures that need to be taken in connection with the developments in Northern Caucasus. Rokhlin insisted in his address on "rendering broad economic aide to the republic [Chechnya] with a concurrent uncompromising struggle and destruction of the gangs of the implacable."

Meeting with your MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent, Lev Yakovlevich [Rokhlin] said, commenting on the events in Pervomayskiy, that it is difficult at this stage to give an objective assessment of the operation being carried out there. It is easy to form judgments in Moscow without knowing all the fine points. In his view, "Alfa, "Vityaz," and "Vympel" or any similar group in the world are, of course, simply not designed for the destruction of a 200-strong gang which took up fortified positions. They simply are not specialists in military storming operations, for which reason shells may overshoot targets, and the "Grad" may be used not effectively enough, and so on, and so forth.

In Rokhlin's view, the terrorists should not have been let go under any circumstances because they have developed a habit to use women and children as a shield since the times of Groznyy. [passages omitted].

Rokhlin noted that it is necessary to, first of all, destroy the bases where terrorists can train and rest, [second] create a single coordination center that would bring together all the power ministries in order to work out in a matter of four or six hours a plan of operation and begin carrying it out, and, third, recognize that terrorism has become one of Russia's problems and sharply increase funding for antiterror forces. [passages omitted]

Moscow Banks on Use of Force, Toughens Line on Chechnya

MK1901090696 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Maksim Zhukov: "Terror — Counterterror. Terror...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yet another terrorist act — this time outside Russia, in Turkey — has brought nothing new into Moscow's position. So far it is clear that terrorist acts only further tighten the emerging federal line in fighting the Dudayev regime and Chechen terrorism. Yet, as the rather gloomy prospect of more acts of terrorism appears, it becomes evident that confrontation along the "terror — counterterror" line cannot serve as a self-sufficient method in addressing the Chechen problem. The gist of the Russian premier's statement circulated the day before yesterday in the Duma is that Chechen problems should as far as possible be shifted to the shoulders of Chechen officials. The question is whether this will guarantee against new acts of terrorism.

So far it is difficult to say with certitude whether Chernomyrdin's statement was an attempt by the Russian leadership to proclaim a new, adjusted course on Chechnya because center stage today is objectively taken up by the problem of suppressing and preventing acts of terrorism on the part of intransigents both in Chechnya and beyond.

Yesterday morning, an anonymous representative of the federal force command announced plans to finish off the gunmen in Pervomayskoye by Wednesday [17 January] night. The statement by Aleksandr Mikhaylov, chief of the FSB [Federal Security Service] Public Relations Center, that there are practically no hostages left alive in the village dispelled the last doubts about the military's intentions. Meanwhile, western news agencies reported that federal forces had begun (at approximately 1400) a massed artillery bombardment of Pervomayskoye, including with "Grad" multiple rocket launchers. The Internal Affairs Ministry, however, denied those reports.

If the federal forces really managed to end the operation by the end of the day, this could be seen as a first real step in the emerging policy, a policy definitively tough and aimed at the ultimate elimination — both political and physical — of the Dudayev regime and Dudayev's gunmen. To all appearances, Russian public opinion at present would understand and accept such a turn. (True, the current operation per se was doomed to fail because

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the task of freeing the hostages was from the very start combined with military-political tasks).

The authorities' information policy during the events in Pervomayskoye suggests that the center is ready to toughen its line. Reports are dominated by texts — supplied by the FSB Public Relations Center — of intercepted radio exchanges between the terrorists testifying to their decisive intentions. They are supplemented with scanty official statements from the FSB Public Relations Center spokesman. Censorship in such cases is objectively inevitable and is not a purely Russian invention. As a result, all conditions were created for decisive actions by methods based exclusively on the use of force.

As concerns Chernomyrdin's statement, there was no real discussion of it in the Duma. Yabloko representative Yelena Mizulina suggested giving the government a no-confidence vote and raising signatures in favor of this motion. Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction member Vladimir Semago said in the Duma corridors that he possessed authentic information showing that Salman Raduyev had been given an opportunity to flee the sealed-off Pervomayskoye because he is Dudayev's son in law and that all hostages had already been killed as a result of "carpet" bombardment by federal forces, while the Russian leadership was thinking of how to shift the blame on the terrorists. Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the Nationalities Ministry, also spoke in the Duma. He said that the use of force is justified but that Moscow has always sought to use peaceful means when it was possible. On the whole the Russian leadership is at the moment swayed by the opinion that the "neither war nor peace" situation after Budennovsk was a mistake.

Today nobody seems to know how to harmonize the "decisive rebuffing of terrorist criminals" with the course toward "further formation of republic power and local self-government agencies" (from the premier's statement) and avoid new mistakes in the process. Meanwhile, the attempts to work out a coherent political line toward a settlement can be buried by new acts of terrorism.

Military Activity

Chechen Raduyev Escapes, Wants To Swap Remaining Hostages

LD1901053196 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0300 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult to regard the Pervomayskoye operation as having been completed. The fate of the fighters' ringleader, Salman Raduyev, is still unknown.

According to the Chechen armed forces main headquarters, Raduyev with some of his fighters and some of the hostages managed to escape from the village during last night's fighting. This information has been confirmed by Dzhokhar Dudayev in a telephone interview with Valeriya Novodvorskaya, the leader of the Democratic Union. Here is what Valeriya Ilyinichna told us:

[Begin Novodvorskaya recording] During the night Salman Raduyev and roughly half of his forces managed to escape from Pervomayskoye — and certainly not by [words indistinct] catacombs that only exist in the crazed imagination of the federal authorities. They simply got through gaps in the Russian federal cordons and trenches. Furthermore, they took with them all the pilots who were seized at the Kizlyar air base and the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] personnel, whose fate the Russian leadership has refused to discuss, let alone resolve, with the Chechen resistance. All the civilian hostages, without exception, were left safe and sound in Pervomayskoye, in cellars — in those places which Raduyev regarded as being safest. [end recording]

According to the NTV, Raduyev has already proposed exchanging his remaining hostages for the fighters who have been captured.

Russian Military: Raduyev May Have Escaped Along Waterways

LD1901102096 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Jan 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Now a report from Pervomayskoye on the first night after the officially announced completion of the operation to free the hostages. [video shows distant views of village, helicopters, armed troops, ambulances, casualties]

[Olga Mezhennaya] The announcement yesterday of the end of events in Pervomayskoye was immediately followed by a heap of questions. As yet there is no trace of Raduyev. But there are reports that he was not found among the dead terrorists. The military believe that he made use of his knowledge of the locality to escape to Chechnya with those militants who remained alive, using one of the whole network of channels and waterways that lead from Pervomayskoye to the Chechen border. [passage omitted: locals will have to live in temporary accommodation; mine clearing is continuing]

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Will the federal forces leave? When? A reply to these two questions may be obtained today after Barsukov's and Kulikov's meeting with the president in Moscow.

The Dagestan militiamen who have been killed will be buried this afternoon in Makhachkala, Kizilyurt, and Babayurt.

No Pervomayskoye Detainees Seen by Chechen, Dagestan Police

LD1901120996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Not a single Pervomayskoye detainee was taken to the screening center or investigation cells of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in Chechnya and Dagestan, a senior officer on the staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Lieutenant-General Yuriy Kalinin told INTERFAX Friday.

The detainees are being identified and the circumstances are being cleared up of their detention at Pervomayskoye where federal troops were engaged in combat action against Chechen separatists, Kalinin said.

Russia: FSB Official Cited on Chechens, Mecenaries

LD1801180896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — About 20 Chechen gunmen were captured in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye Thursday [18 January], a spokesman for the Federal Security Service (FSB), Aleksandr Zdanovich, told INTERFAX.

Many gunmen were killed, but he declined to give an exact number.

"Foreign documents were discovered on some bodies, evidence that the gang included mercenaries," Zdanovich underlined.

The operation in Pervomayskoye is close to completion as several houses remain to be cleared of gunmen. Wounded hostages may also be there, Zdanovich said.

Meanwhile, the Chechen command reported that a group of gunmen led by Salman Raduyev had managed to escape from the village last night. The statement was published from a mountainous village in Chechnya at about 4:15 p.m [1315 GMT].

Commenting on the statement, Zdanovich told INTERFAX he did not have information on Raduyev's fate. He suggested that Raduyev could have been killed or is hiding somewhere in Pervomayskoye.

"For now, I cannot say anything certain about Raduyev," he remarked.

Zdanovich did not exclude the possibility that the statement could be Chechen misinformation.

Source: Chechens Preparing To Attack Russians in Dagestan

LD1801183696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Chechen militants are reported to be preparing an attack against Russian border guards on the Chechen-Dagestan border in retaliation for the elimination of the Salman Raduyev gunmen in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye, reliable military sources have said.

The attack will be against a unit of the motorized mobile group near the village of Ziberkhali, southern Dagestan.

Russian border guards already clashed with Chechen militants in that area on August 25, 1995. The fighting lasted many hours. Militants had penetrated into Dagestan to capture four border guards. Two border guards were killed and four injured. The gang was forced out into Chechnya.

Russian border guard troops sources have said that a mobile unit of 200 men is being moved from the Western border guard group to reinforce the special Caucasus border guard district. After its arrival in Kizlyar, the group will be sent to guard the Russian-Azerbaijani border.

Freed Hostage Describes Chechen Escape From Pervomayskoye

AU1801160296 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Aksai, Russia, Jan 18 (AFP) — At least some of the Chechen rebels who were holed up in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye managed to flee with about 20 hostages overnight, a freed hostage told AFP in this Dagestani border village Thursday.

The former hostage, speaking in hospital in Aksai, 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Pervomayskoye, said that at 3:00 a.m. (0000 GMT) the group of rebels broke out through the Russian lines surrounding the village near the Chechen border.

Meanwhile, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Thursday that the assault on the rebels had ended and 82 hostages had been freed but 18 were still missing.

Former hostage Andrei Stepanenko, 25, told AFP that the group of rebels fled Pervomayskoye amid Russian artillery fire with about 20 hostages, and he was with them until he was hit by shrapnel and the Chechens left him behind.

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Stepanenko was a resident of Kizlyar, the Dagestani border town raided by the rebels led by Salman Raduyev on January 9 — an attack that triggered the hostage crisis.

He said some of the hostages who left with the group of rebels were wounded and were carried on stretchers.

He said he did not know what happened to them after they left Pervomayskoye.

At least 10 hostages remained in the village after the rebels fled, he said.

Stepanenko did not specify how many rebels fled, nor whether Raduyev was among them.

Before the Russian assault began early Monday there were some 150 rebels in the village holding more than 100 hostages.

Stepanenko said about 10 rebels were killed in the four-day Russian offensive and about 30 were wounded.

Yeltsin, citing a report from Federal Security Service (FSB) chief Mikhayl Barsukov, said 26 Russian troops died in the assault on the village, near the border between the two north Caucasus republics of Chechnya and Dagestan.

He said the operation had been "completed with minimal losses" among the hostages and federal forces.

An FSB spokesman quoted by ITAR-TASS said Russian forces had taken about 20 Chechen prisoners at Pervomaiskaya and "many were killed" in the battle, but he did not specify the number of rebels killed.

Pervomayskoye Hostages Describe Treatment by Chechens

AU1801182496 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT 18 Jan 96

[by Sebastian Smith]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Outside Pervomayskoye, Russia, Jan 18 (AFP) — When Dima Alexandrovich was taken hostage at gunpoint by Chechen rebels, the terror had only just begun — he still had to survive the hellish Russian rescue operation.

Speaking just hours after his escape, still covered in mud and his eyes red with fatigue, Alexandrovich, 38, said he was amazed to be alive.

"It's like being born a second time. I never thought I would return. My wife doesn't even know yet that I survived," he said after he and Chechen guerrillas broke through Russian lines around the village of Pervomayskoye under intense fire.

Alexandrovich said he was well treated by his Chechen captors, who seized him 10 days ago at a Dagestani hospital, where he works as a driver, and took him and 100 other captives on their abortive journey back to Chechnya.

Like all other freed hostages, he denied Russian claims that hostages were executed.

"They never shot anyone. They did not abuse us; in fact, they didn't even swear," he said.

In the ultimate irony, it was his rescuers, the Russian security forces, who almost killed him — repeatedly.

The Russian attempt to storm Pervomayskoye, a village of about 300 houses in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan, began Monday with an assault by special forces commandos.

In intense street battles, the Chechen guerrillas beat off some of Russia's toughest soldiers.

So Russian commanders switched to trying to bludgeon the Chechens into submission with artillery, rocket and helicopter gunship barrages, turning the village into a smoking ruin and risking the lives of hostages as much as the guerrillas.

"The last two days were simply carpet bombardments. There's not a house left undamaged," said another escaped hostage, Kurban Ibragimovich, 31.

After Wednesday, when helicopters literally emptied rocket and automatic cannon fire on the village, and Grad multiple rockets slammed into the rubble one after the other, the Chechen guerrillas decided to try and break through encircling Russian lines and escape to nearby Chechnya.

Hostages were made to carry ammunition, weapons and the wounded fighters during the breakout.

"We were walking in ditches and in a river. The flares made the place as bright as day, so it was hard to hide," Alexandrovich said.

"There was total panic. No one thought he would live.

"They (the Chechens) were firing everything — machine guns, grenade launchers, and we were being shot at from three sides and there was no hope," he said.

"They destroyed several Russian positions," he said.

"Most were killed, it was absolute hell," Ibragimovich said. "I don't know how I can explain it to you."

Both men were lucky during their four-hour ordeal.

They hid during the fighting and gave themselves up to Russian soldiers at dawn. Some of the Chechens made

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it to the border of Chechnya, but many were killed, they said.

Another hostage, 25-year-old Andre Stepanyenko, escaped, but with terrible injuries.

"I was carrying a stretcher with a wounded man on it," he said. "A battle broke out and I was hit when a shell exploded behind me. They left me behind," he said.

Stepanyenko, whose head was wrapped in bloody bandages and was so weak he could barely speak from his hospital bed, had a bullet in his stomach and had had his skull cut open by shrapnel, doctors said.

The hostages were seized 10 days ago at the hospital in Kizlyar after the Chechens attacked a Russian air base and needed human shields to try and get back to Chechnya.

The bus column of guerrillas and hostages made it as far as Pervomayskoye when it was blocked by Russian troops. The Chechens' decision to quit the village appeared to have finally ended the bloody standoff.

Russian authorities said their troops had been able to take control of the village on Thursday. Journalists were barred from the ruins of the village, but shooting stopped in the second half of the day, after a final artillery and helicopter bombardment in the early morning.

1500 Residents Evacuated During Dagestan Operation

LD1901115896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — About 1,500 residents of the villages of Pervomayskoye, Sovyetskoye and Terechnoye were evacuated to other areas of Dagestan for the period of combat action against the Chechen separatists under Salman Raduyev, the press service of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations told INTERFAX.

The evacuees found shelter in hospitals, clubs and private homes. They were supplied with food and other basic necessities, the Ministry press service said.

The medical center Zashchita (Protection) opened a 100-bed hospital in the village of Aksai.

Nine wounded persons checked into the Aksai hospital Thursday. Five of them were transfered for further treatment to Dagestani hospitals.

Russian Reinforcements Arrive on Dagestan-Chechnya Border

LD1901063696 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0455 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pavel Guskov, our North Caucasus correspondent, is now on the line to the Mayak studio. Good morning, Pavel.

[Guskov] Good morning. The situation in Pervomayskoye and that area of Dagestan was normal and quiet overnight and nothing alarming was reported. Nevertheless, events there have had an impact on the Transcaucasus special border district. Commenting on the current situation, Col-Gen Viktor Zemtsov, the federal forces commander of the district, told me that although it is calm, serious measures have been taken. Some 200 border guards from Russia's western border district just arrived in Dagestan — to be more exact on the Chechnya-Dagestan border. They have arrived and started patrolling there, covering the Ansalta Gorge sector. This is the gorge that leads to Vedeno settlement where, according to military intelligence, a fairly sizeable contingent of fighters is concentrated.

The situation is at the moment calm at all outposts of the Caucasus border district, including outposts on the Black Sea coast where a special alert is in force because of the events in Trabzon.

Pervomayskoye Village Closed While Mine-Clearing Under Way

LD1901102796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1011 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Federal forces are liquidating unexploded ammunition and clearing mines in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye on Friday wherefrom Chechen terrorists were driven out on Thursday.

As a result, local residents and journalists are barred from the village for the time being, ITAR-TASS learned from Aleksandr Zdanovich, first deputy chief of the public relations centre of the Russian Federal Security Service.

Replying to ITAR-TASS, Zdanovich did not preclude a chance that some terrorists may still hide in Pervomayskoye and its environs.

Earlier, ITAR-TASS reported from Makhachkala that federal troops, apart from Pervomayskoye, completely sealed off the nearby village of Sovetskoye, in the the vicinity of which battles were also conducted against Chechen rebels on Wednesday and Thursday.

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Dagestan: Situation in Pervomayskoye Reported

LD1801232896 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The producer has just told me that the report from Pervomayskoye by our special correspondents is ready to go out. Here it is.

[Correspondent A. Sladkov, identified by caption] [Video shows a group of uniformed men and reporters] Morning by the village of Pervomayskoye began, as usual, with a hassle between journalists and policemen. The police even deployed a dog for the third time during the past few days. [video shows a journalist scuttling out of the way of a large black dog that suddenly rears up despite being held by its handler].

Towards 0900 [0600 GMT], we were allowed to go through to the operation's headquarters. Here we transferred to a helicopter and flew to the actual village. [video shows snow-covered fields seen from helicopter]

The place where we are at the moment was the sector where the fighters attempted to break through. Fighting ended here several hours ago. There are casualties. [video: Pervomayskoye seen from the outside]

Unable to withstand the Grad barrage, the fighters concentrated so as to form a strike force and hit the encircling ring around them, trying to break out of Pervomayskoye and head towards Chechnya.

[Unidentified soldier] The fighters made an attempt to stage a breakthrough in our direction. About 50 of our troops were positioned here so that they wouldn't break through in our sector. There were about 80 fighters and some 80 hostages.

[Second unidentified soldier] We were in a defensive position, but there were only three of us in our place. The flanks weren't covered, and they managed to get through. We were greatly outnumbered.

[Third unidentified soldier] They caught us off-guard. Some of us were relieving others on the watch. Some were on duty, while others were resting. [Video shows a long snow- and grass-covered ridge extending into the distance; two corpses can be seen].

[Sladkov] This sector was held by a thin line of infantry, consisting of 16 men. The armored vehicles were a little further off. Having annihilated 52 fighters, the soldiers then retreated after losing six men. About 40 fighters carried on with the breakthrough. [video shows at least five more corpses along the sides of the ridge; close-up of a corpse with smoke pouring from the body; video then shows Mikhail Barsukov, director of the Russian Federal Security Service and Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov standing side by side].

[Barsukov] We detained six who managed to get across there in four boats. As for the rest, we are now adopting search measures.

[G. Troshin, commander of the 58th Army, identified by caption] In Chechnya, one group tried to cross today, but they didn't make it. The group was completely destroyed. [video shows Pervomayskoye being bombarded]

[Sladkov] Hostages went with the fighters. They were instructed to carry the wounded. Some managed to escape.

[Unidentified man] I don't think there are any hostages left there. They've all gone — with the fighters.

[Sladkov] According to the directors of the operation, all the freed hostages will pass through screening centers. [video shows Kulikov speaking to reporters]

[Kulikov] They have to be checked. None of them have any documents. They say they are hostages. When we start to check, [if we find] a blue shoulder, a scorched temple and cheek, that is a fighter. We're making checks. The screening center is now operating. [video shows a group of armed and uniformed men escorting an unarmed man towards a police car].

[Sladkov] Some of the fighters were captured — like this man, for example. [video shows rather fearful-looking young man addressing reporters].

[Unidentified man] We didn't kill anyone. We didn't lay a finger on anyone. I had no idea where we were going. We were loaded into vehicles, and off we went. I don't know what is was all about.

[Voice off-camer] You're scared!

[Man] I'm not scared. I'm telling the truth.

[Kulikov] According to our preliminary estimates, the enemy lost over 100 men, killed. This gang lost over 100 men, killed. Twenty-nine of them were lost in Kizlyar.

[Barsukov] Mopping-up is now taking place along the lines and in the sectors. We're looking for those who hid or ran off somewhere. Most of the hostages have been freed — about 90 people. It can be said unequivocally that, on the whole, the operation is over. The work is complete, but much has yet to be done to dig everything up from here.

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Russian Security Service Head on Pervomayskoye Operation's End

LD1801171196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] An interview with Mikhail Barsukov, [director of Russia's Federal Security Service] has been made ready for showing. So, perhaps, we shall learn some new details.

[Begin Barsukov recording] One can say as a preliminary that on the whole everything is ended. Clearing up is going on around the edges, section by section. We are looking for those who have hidden or escaped somewhere.

On the whole, I can say that this was a major unit, a very major one, well trained and prepared. I think that the fighters assembled in this unit were by no means the worst. But the most important thing is that they fought fanatically for their interests, for their ideas. And we acknowledge this.

But the most important thing is that we avoided major bloodshed. The majority of the hostages have been freed — about 90 of them. We believe that some of the hostages were not really hostages. They were accomplices. They left with them. About 15 people, we believe. We detained six people on the other side who had managed to get over there on four boats. We are now conducting search operations for the rest. [end recording]

Russian Official: No Long-Range Planes To Be Used in Dagestan

LD1801175596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Commander of Russia's long-range aviation, Col. Gen. Igor Kalugin, has denied reports long-range aircraft many be used in the area of combat operations around the village of Pervomayskoye.

"There have been no commands for using bombers in combat," General Kalugin told INTERFAX on Tuesday [as received].

Meanwhile, the Russian Air Force press-center has said that combat aircraft have performed only support functions throughout the period federal troops have conducted the special operation in Pervomayskoye.

"Air Force planes carried out air reconnaissance along the administrative border of Chechnya and Dagestan and dropped illuminating bombs over the area of the fighting at night," the press-center said.

Russia: Use of Electronic Warfare Against Dudayev Urged

MK1901120696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Igor Korotchenko under the general heading: "Operation in Pervomayskoye Is Over"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Disruption of the enemy's command and control system is a sine qua non making the difference between success and failure in any operation. This basic principle seems to have been ignored, however, during the preparations for and conduct of the operation in Pervomayskoye to free terrorist-held hostages.

The organization and use of electronic warfare measures is seen as a decisive factor for achieving victory in combat. Electronic warfare is an independent branch of combat support. It is therefore all the more unclear why corresponding electronic warfare measures were not promptly planned and undertaken.

What can Dudayev or Basayev do without communications? Nothing at all. They can command local actions of isolated formations in the mountains, giving orders via messengers. Relying on satellite, short-wave, and ultrashort-wave radio communications, however, the rebel leaders can turn the entire Northern Caucasus upside down.

To deal an all-out electronic blow at the Dudayev headquarters, you do not need thousands of soldiers, dozens of aircraft or hundreds of armored vehicles. For that, it is sufficient to deploy at its far approaches several electronic warfare battalions from the Northern Caucasus Military District or to move to Chechnya one or two electronic warfare units subordinated to the central command.

The General Staff's Electronic Warfare Directorate managed in August 1991 [attempted Communist coup] to identify and suppress the main channels of combat command and control of Boris Yeltsin's supporters in the [Russian] White House, establish the hiding places of the Russian president's family, thwart attempts by Aleksandr Korzhakov and his men to use radiotelephone communications for operational purposes. Why not do the same once again in Chechnya? All the more so because there are still people in command of corresponding specialized units who carried out the "electronic hunt" for the legitimately elected Russian president in the days of the State of Emergency Committee.

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Let them now use the acquired skills against the rebellious "president of Ichkeria."

Terrorist Activity

Avrasya Terrorists Demand Aircraft To Fly to Chechnya

LD1901004496 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0000 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorists, who have seized the ferry Avrasya on the Black Sea, changed their demands late yesterday evening [18 January]. According to a report from the national news service, the terrorists are prepared to release all the hostages in exchange for an aircraft or helicopter to take them to Chechnya.

The reaction of the Turkish and Russian authorities to the new demands is still not known.

Russian Spokesman: Ferry Hijackers Agree To Release Hostages

LD1901120296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Supporters of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev agreed to release the people aboard the ferryboat Avrasya and surrender to the Turkish authorities, a spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Ankara told INTERFAX Friday morning. The ferryboat was hijacked Tuesday in the Turkish port of Trabzon.

According to the Embassy spokesman, the ferryboat is coasting some 30 kilometers away from Istanbul.

The hijackers promised to refrain from entering Bosphorus.

All the hostages, including Russian nationals, are safe and sound, the Embassy spokesman also said.

Russian Embassy: Ferry Not To Be Allowed Istanbul Landing

LD1801173396 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1715 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Avrasya ferry, which was seized by terrorists in Trabzon port on 16 January, will not be allowed into Istanbul, Aleksandr Zinovyev, press secretary of the Russian embassy in Turkey, told Ekho Moskvy radio station.

He said the ship would head for the port of Eregli.

Avrasya: Ukrainians To Be Freed; Nationalists May Mediate

LD1801171096 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Accords have practically been reached between representatives of UNA-UNSD [Ukrainian National Assembly - Ukrainian National Self-Defense] and Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff of Chechen military formations, on freeing some of the hostages, citizens of Ukraine, who were seized on the Avrasya ferry by Mukhammed Topchan's subversive group on 16 January, Oleh Vitovych, the head of UNA-UNSD, said at a news conference today.

A UNIAN correspondent reports that Oleh Vitovych said that UNA-UNSD deputies in the Ukrainian Supreme Council had addressed a proposal to the Ukrainian president, Supreme Council, Foreign Affairs Ministry, and Cabinet of Ministers that the opportunity to mediate be granted to them in talks with Mukhammed Tokcan's group regarding freeing hostages, who are Ukrainian citizens.

Oleh Vitovych said that in a conversation with Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko today, Udovenko, referring to a report from the Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry, confirmed that the terrorists agreed to mediation by UNA-UNSD representatives in freeing Ukrainian citizens on board the Avrasya.

Replying to a question on the period, within which the hostages might be freed, Oleh Vitovych noted that everything will depend on "technical issues" linked to the handing over of hostages. The UNA-UNSD head also said that if Black Sea Fleet ships were used in an action to free the hostages, Ukraine will practically have been drawn into the Russian-Chechen conflict.

Dudayev: Ferry Hijacking Possible Federal Provocation

LD1901052396 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0400 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening, Turkish television showed film taken on the ferry Avrasya. It showed armed terrorists in black masks on the deck. They were shouting slogans like "Free the Caucasus" and "Long Live Allah!".

We have learned that Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev does not rule out the possibility that the hijacking of the ferry Avrasya is a provocation by Russian special services. According to Dudayev, his headquarters did not plan the seizure of the ferry.

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Russian Consul-General in Istanbul on Avrasya Situation

LD1901101296 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We asked Leonid Manzhosin, the Russian consul general in Istanbul, to talk about the development of the situation around the Avrasya ferry.

[Begin Manzhosin recording] The situation in Istanbul is calm. We are in constant contact with the local authorities who, as I had reported earlier, have in advance, at our request, taken additional security measures around the consulate-general and other Russian institutions in Istanbul, Russian aircraft and vessels which are in Instanbul. Concerning the Avrasya ferry, it is continuing to move toward Istanbul. According to senior Turkish leaders, everything is being done so that this vessel does not enter the inner waters of Istanbul port. The ferry's estimated time of arrival in Istanbul is 1400 hours Moscow time [1100 GMT] but I would like to note that the Turkish side does not intend to allow it to enter Istanbul and in this connection all relevant and necessary measures are being taken. According to our information no incident has taken place so far on the vessel. The situation on board the vessel is normal, if it is possible to talk like this about the overall situation on a vessel seized by bandits. [end recording]

Turkey Assures Moscow Ferry Hijackers 'Will Stand Trial'

LD1901121096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — The Turkish authorities reassured Moscow that the pro-Dudayev gunmen who seized the Avrasya ferry in the Turkish port of Trabzon "will stand trial and be punished as common criminals" even if the hostages are unharmed, Russian deputy foreign minister Albert Chernyshev told INTERFAX Friday.

Chernyshev said the Turkish authorities negotiated with the gunmen, who confirmed that they are prepared to release all the hostages and be content with announcing their demands at a news conference.

The ferry is reported to be moving towards Istanbul, he said, but will not be allowed into Bosphorus or the surrounding area because, the gunmen say, there are a lot of explosives on board.

Following the seizure of Avrasya in Trabzon, security was stepped up in all Russian embassies, he confirmed, especially in Turkey and those countries of the region where the Chechen diaspora is large, in particular Jordan, Chernyshev said. Embassy personnel have been told not to leave the embassy building there without a good reason, food is brought to the embassy by a caterer, and so on, he explained.

Chernyshev expressed the hope that the hostage drama will be over before the end of Friday, but added that one cannot be 100 percent sure of that "because terrorists are unmanageable people."

Turkey Said 'Capable of Handling' Avrasya Situation

LD1801153796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — "We know that the Turkish special services are staffed with very experienced and skilled specialists, who, in our opinion, are capable of handling the situation created by the January 16 seizure of the crew and passengers of the Avrasya motorship in a Turkish port by Chechen terrorists," Press Secretary of the Director of the Russian External Intelligence Service Tatyana Samolis stated here today in reply to an ITAR-TASS request to comment on reported measures taken by the Turkish authorities to free the Avrasya hostages.

Samolis reaffirmed that the "Russian Intelligence Service is in constant contact with the Turkish special services and is closely following the developments".

Russian Envoy Has No Faith in Turkish Antiterrorist Squad

LD1801172796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Jan 96

[Video report on telephone interview with L. Manzhosin, Russian consul-general in Istanbul, by correspondent Tumanova; from the "Vesti" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Manzhosin] The Avrasya ferry is expected to arrive in Istanbul at 0100 or 0200 in the morning, perhaps even later. The Turkish Government, in the person of the interior minister, is coordinating all the work connected with the ferry. Naturally other services are also involved. The local authorities are in close touch with Ankara. During telephone conversations with the chief terrorist, agreement has been reached. But the agreement is not yet certain. He told the chief of the Turkish national intelligence organization that he trusted that organization and was ready to give himself up to it after he makes an appropriate statement in Istanbul.

[Tumanova] Will he have this opportunity to hold a news conference?

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[Manzhosin] He was told that after he releases all the hostages he will be given that opportunity.

[Tumanova] Do you know whether anybody has been hurt among the hostages?

[Manzhosin] According to ours and Turkish information, there have been no incidents.

[Tumanova] In your view, are the Turkish special services acting competently and knowledgeably?

[Manzhosin] Oh! You know what the English would say to that? They would say: Ask me another question. Ask me something easier. I think at present clear work is being carried out. As for the situation around [word indistinct], local authorities took additional security measures at our request. Nevertheless, today a small rally was held again today — by about 30-40 people. Anti-Russian slogans and pro-Islamic banners were used. All the other statements by officials condemn the act, and the Turkish Foreign Ministry described it as terrorist. [video shows interview]

Black Sea Fleet Immobile Unless Ferry Leaves Turkish Waters

LD1801201596 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to well-informed sources, the Kerch anti-submarine warfare ship really is ready to put to sea to carry out an operation to rescue the hostages.

[Begin recording Petr Svyatashov, chief of staff of the Black Sea Fleet; identified by caption] If we get the order — if the seized Russian passenger ship leaves Turkish territorial waters, then only after that will a Russian ship and ships of any other country have the right to carry out tasks to combat terrorism. Since the ship is in Turkish territorial waters, all these powers and obligations rest with Turkey. [end recording]

The Yenisey hospital ship is ready to put to sea the instant it receives the order. The command believes this readiness is less to do with an expedition to the Turkish shore, but with the necessity urgently to join in coping with similar terrorist acts likely in the future.

Officers of the Black Sea Fleet say that we now need all our restraint and skill. Our sea is no longer calm.

Gunman On Board Hijacked Black Sea Ferry Interviewed

LD1801191596 Rome RAI Radio Uno Network in Italian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chechen gunmen are still in control of a Turkish ferry they hijacked with 200 passengers on board. The ship is now on its way to Istanbul. Our correspondent, Alessando Cassieri, has interviewed a member of the Chechen commandos.

[Cassieri] The pro-Chechen terrorists who hijacked the Turkish ferry Avrasya in the Black Sea two days ago are still far away from Istanbul, but are determined to get there. Their demands in return for the liberation of the hostages have not changed either. I managed to speak to them a few minutes ago on the portable phone they use to negotiate with the Turkish government. Here is the recording of the interview which was cut short by the interviewee:

[Begin recording] [Cassieri] I am a journalist and I work for RAI, the Italian radio. I would like to talk to Muhammed Tokcan.

[Abrek, in Turkish with superimposed translation into Italian] My name is Abrek, you can talk to me.

[Cassieri] Are you from Turkey, Abkhazia, or Chechnya?

[Abrek] I am from the Caucasus.

[Cassieri] Where are you right now?

[Abrek] In the area of Zonguldak.

[Cassieri] Do you think they will allow you to get to Istanbul?

[Abrek] We will be there sometime tomorrow.

[Cassieri] What do you ask in return for the liberation of all the hostages, including the Russians?

[Abrek] Three things: Firstly, the Russians must leave the whole of the Caucasus. Secondly, they must immediately halt the massacre in Chechnya and Dagestan. Thirdly, we want our voice to be heard throughout the world.

[Cassieri] What do you want western governments and the EU to do for you?

[Abrek] Please, please, listen. You must know that inhuman things are happening in Chechnya. Do not forget that we too have the right to live. Having more soldiers and more weapons does not allow you to trample on other people. We are ready for anything, we are right and we will overcome. [end recording]

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25 Chechen-Held Policemen Freed in Pervomayskoye

LD1901101396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Viktor Yelmakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NOVOSIBIRSK, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Twenty-five policemen, who were held as hostages by Chechen terrorists in Pervomayskoye, have been freed. The fate of the remaining twelve is still unknown, ITAR-TASS was told at the Press Service of the Novosibirsk Interior Department today. Some policemen were wounded. This information, transmitted to Novosibirsk from the Dagestan Interior Ministry, was confirmed by officers of the Novosibirsk Interior Department, who were sent a few days ago to the area of the tragic events. The names of nineteen freed policemen are known in Novosibirsk. The names of the other six, who were freed only after the terrorists were driven out of Pervomayskoye, are still not known to the Press Service.

The joint detachment of Novosibirsk policemen, which manned a checkpoint near Pervomayskoye, was captured by the terrorists on January 10. They surrendered their weapons in order to avoid casualties among the local population and hostages.

Russian Electricity Workers Being Held in Yermolovka

LD1801152096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — The 29 electricity-industry workers, kidnapped on the outskirts of Groznyy on January 16, are being held in the village of Yermolovka, 15 kilometers southwest of Groznyy, a source in the Chechen Interior Ministry told INTERFAX. He also said that talks were being held with the village elders on ways to free the hostages.

The village of Yermolovka is controlled by militants and the hostages are being held in the local cultural center.

The Interior Ministry said that the electricity-industry workers had been kidnapped by militants who have links with the Shamil Basayev grouping, who attacked Budennovsk.

The militants have not advanced any political demands yet.

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Yeltsin's Spokesman Medvedev Outlines CIS Summit Agenda

LD1901121896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — A Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit will start at 11:45 a.m. today with a meeting of CIS leaders in the Kremlin, spokesman for the Russian President Sergey Medvedev told Russian news agencies at a briefing Friday.

Later on the delegations will attend a plenary meeting. Each delegation comprises the state leader, the prime minister, ministers of defense and foreign affairs, and two experts. The plenary meeting will start with an introductory speech by Russian President and Chairman of the CIS Council of State Leaders Boris Yeltsin.

The plenary meeting is expected to end at 2:30-3:00 p.m. to be followed by a news conference on its results. Medvedev does not exclude the plenary meeting may last longer.

At 6 p.m. today the Russian president will give a dinner in honor of the meeting participants. The dinner will be followed by a concert.

The state leaders are expected to discuss some 20 issues, including prospects for the customs and payment union, guidelines for prevention and settlement of conflicts on CIS territory, and the prolonged stay of collective peacemaking forces in Tajikistan.

Medvedev said they may also discuss Georgian-Abkhazian settlement. The summit agenda includes cooperation in border issues, the provisions on collective peace-keeping forces in the CIS, and an agreement on training of CIS military and civilian personnel and its participation in peace-making operations in CIS member-states.

The leaders may also discuss the creation of a CIS Council of Interior Ministers.

A preliminary meeting of CIS leaders will discuss a new chairman of the CIS Council of State Leaders, sources told INTERFAX. They do not exclude the possibility that Boris Yeltsin may be re-elected to this post.

Yeltsin: Russia's Strategy Aims at CIS Integration

LD1901121196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — The CIS Council of Heads of State has started its meeting in the Kremlin.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that there is no alternative to economic, scientific and cultural rapprochement. "This is Russia's strategy," he said. Yeltsin emphasized that Russia is not guilty of imperial behavior. "Integration is a free choice while sovereignty and independence are maintained. We do not want a return to the past," Yeltsin said.

Some want to have Russia quarrel with other CIS member nations, he emphasized. "We know who they are, we know for what purpose and we know what to do about it. They try to sow the seed of mistrust in Russia and in one another. I hope we will show enough political wisdom to live together in friendship and be respected in the world," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin 'Unanimously' Reelected as CIS Council Chairman

LD1901105796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin was unanimously re-elected chairman of the Council of the CIS heads for 1996 at a closed meeting of the heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was held in Moscow this morning.

Opening the meeting which preceded a plenary meeting, Yeltsin said that he put only one question on the agenda: election of a new chairman of the Council. Speaking next, Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev proposed re-election of Yeltsin to this post.

In Aliyev's opinion, "this is in our common interests, in the interests of the entire CIS".

Taking the floor after Aliev, Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, supporting the Azeri president's proposal, noted that Yeltsin's re-election "will give a new impetus to the development of integration within the Commonwealth".

Speaking after them, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze agreed with his colleagues, noting that "re-election of Boris Yeltsin as chairman of the Council of the heads of state will be a support from the Commonwealth to Yeltsin who will possibly run again for the Russian presidency".

Yeltsin noted jokingly in reply: "You both support and prod me".

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Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev Denounces Appeals To Restore USSR

LD1901120396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has denounced appeals by some politicians to restore the former Soviet Union.

A statement by Nazarbayev circulated Friday during a CIS summit, says that recent pronouncements by some politicians call for the denouncement of the Belovezhskaya Puscha agreements, which resulted in the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, and the restoration of a renewed Soviet Union.

"It is now impossible to restore the Soviet state in its old borders without violence. Such attempts will undermine stability and sovereignty, call into question economic and social progress, and run counter to the long-term interests of the Commonwealth member-states," says the statement. Nazarbayev stressed this is Kazakhstan's official opinion.

He described as irresponsible the appeals for the immediate restoration of the former Soviet Union. In Nazarbayev's opinion, they may sow discord, violence and plenty of serious problems. "It seems necessary to give a worthy estimation to such pronouncements in the Commonwealth member-states," says the document.

Nazarbayev urged additional measures to upgrade CIS efficiency and integration. He called for support of the idea of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan on a customs union, which should be viewed as an important stage in unification of their economic potential and creation of a common market. "We proceed from the fact that there is no alternative to the idea of integration in Eurasia," says the statement.

"Kazakhstan is ready for further progress in integration and improvement of the CIS, but it will never give up its independence and sovereignty. Each Commonwealth member-state is an independent subject of international relations, and cooperation should be based on equal partnership," it notes.

Commonwealth leaders are expected to make a decision on the statement of the Kazakh President.

CIS Secretary Korotchenya Holds News Conference

MM1801144096 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Fedor Yemchenko: "CIS Grand Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the Council of CIS heads of states will be held in Moscow tomorrow. The day before Ivan Mikhaylovich Korotchenya, executive secretary of the CIS, held a press conference.

The council should examine 15 or so questions and make decisions on them. The draft decisions have been prepared by experts and coordinated with participants in the session. The main problems, in I. Korotchenya's opinion, will be questions connected with the formation of a single economic area. Serious debate is expected here. The example of three states — Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan — which have created customs and payments unions is being carefully studied today by all CIS countries. A further three have voiced the wish to join the customs union. Nor will the question of eliminating interethnic conflicts on CIS territory be overlooked.

To the question of whether the Chechnya events are on the agenda Ivan Mikhaylovich replied that this question is not on the agenda but in his opinion there will certainly be a discussion of this problem.

Journalists tried to get an answer to a question of interest to many Russians — why in all trouble spots, be it the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia or between Moldova and the Dniester Region, are Russian boys obliged to risk their lives?

The reply was as follows: Russia is the largest state in the CIS not only in terms of area but also in terms of economic potential. In addition the creation of interstate peacekeeping forces should take place under UN auspices and our commonwealth does not yet have the status of an international territorial association.

Of all the CIS' achievements in the past four years I. Korotchenya noted only that all states have acquired full sovereignty. In the economic and social spheres the results in all states without exception unfortunately leave room for improvement.

CIS Summit Reaches Accord on Collective Peacekeeping Forces

LD1901130796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Surzhanskiy and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The meeting of the Council of CIS heads of state, which is taking place here today, adopted a decision to create a Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of CIS States. The meeting also confirmed a statute [polozheniye] on collective peacekeeping forces in the CIS.

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The Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of CIS States has been set by analogy with the existing councils of the heads of commonwealth foreign and defense ministries. It is proposed that the new council promote the development of cooperation between the law-enforcement bodies of the CIS countries.

The heads of states also approved, by a majority vote, a provision on collective peacekeeping forces in the CIS. The provision sets out the procedure for conducting peacekeeping operations in the CIS, and the composition, tasks, and functions of the collective peacekeeping forces.

The meeting also adopted a decision on the training and instruction of military and civilian personnel of CIS member states for participation in peacekeeping operations. It was deemed appropriate to organize, from 1 October 1996, training and instruction of such personnel allocated as members of the collective forces by individual countries.

The meeting of the CIS leaders decided to continue work to strengthen cooperation on border issues.

The provision of social and legal guarantees for servicemen, people retired from military service, and members of their families was also discussed.

Peacekeepers' Mandate in Tajikistan Extended Until 30 Jun

LD1901110296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Surzhanskiy and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The CIS heads of state today adopted a decision extending the stay of the collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan from 1 January to 30 June 1996. Lieutenant-General Viktor Zavarzin has been appointed the new commander of the peacekeeping forces. This was announced at the meeting of CIS leaders which is taking place in Moscow.

CIS Secretary Outlines Antiterrorism Coordination Efforts

MM1901112796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Against Terrorism — As a Commonwealth. The CIS Countries Recognize the Need To Combat Terrorism Jointly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Undoubtedly, we are not the only ones worried and concerned by the recent tragic events in Russia (and now also involving hundreds of Russians in Turkish waters).

But will the Commonwealth heads of state discuss the problems of combating terrorism at the upcoming meeting in Moscow? Answering that question, Ivan Korotchenya, executive secretary for the Commonwealth countries, announced that this question has not been specifically prepared. However, he did not rule out the possibility that during the meeting the Commonwealth leaders may touch upon a problem that is so pressing today.

Here he added that some work in this direction has been under way for a long time. Thus, at a meeting of general prosecutors of the CIS countries held earlier, a system of unified approaches to assessing terrorism — the most terrible and bloody phenomenon of the 20th century — was discussed. The point is that the very term "terrorism" is scarcely to be found in the legislation of the young independent states, still less are there any articles stipulating penalties for such crimes. Although an obvious point should be added: The problem of terrorism is not as acute and painful for all the Commonwealth countries as, say, for Russia.

A second and equally important area of coordination of action in combating terrorism was noted in the course of the work of the CIS Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs. Here the question was discussed, if one can put it like this, in a more practical vein. How and by what means can terrorism be fought? What specialized technical innovations and tactics have been developed in the world? And most importantly — what must be done to achieve greater coordination among law enforcement departments in combating terrorism.

Yeltsin Summarizes Results of CIS Summit at News Conference

LD1901131396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Boris Yeltsin said that the main result of the routine meeting of the heads of CIS states and governments which took place today was that "a trend toward voluntary integration has finally taken shape among the countries of the Commonwealth."

Speaking today at a news conference devoted to the results of the CIS summit, Boris Yeltsin stressed that all 24 questions on the preliminary agenda were discussed at the meeting and that a decision was made on each one. Three additional questions were discussed. The CIS members also managed to reach agreement on these.

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Yeltsin said that the very important documents signed today include an agreement on strengthening the payments and customs unions and an agreement on the concept of preventing armed conflicts and the spread of terrorism on the territory of the CIS countries.

The Russian president noted that the effectiveness of the Commonwealth will be constructed first of all on economic integration.

Boris Yeltsin said that the Council of heads of state reelected him as chairman of the Council for 1996. "I did not manage to get out of it and I shall head the Council at least until I make a final decision on whether to give consent to run for president of Russia for another term," the head of the Russian state said.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Jan

LD1901062296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0604 GMT 19 Jan 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — The developments in Pervomayskoye village on the Chechen-Dagestani border is the principal topic in today's Moscow-based newspapers.

IZVESTIYA estimates that the ten days of confrontation between the Chechen terrorists and the authorities in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye have become a period of "anguish, powerlessness and dishonour".

ROSSIYISKAYA GAZETA pointed out in a dispatch from Pervomayskoye that the inhabitants of the village, who managed to avoid captivity or get away from the terrorists, supported the Russian servicemen, urging them to "fire on the village by direct laying", without sparing their houses.

TRUD warns the Russian key agencies and citizens that terrorist acts may be repeated "in this or that point of Russia or outside it". According to the newspaper, Dudayev has "a mobile powerful army", "thousands of militants who are prepared to stage any provocation at any moment". In this connection TRUD maintains that "a political settlement of the conflict, not war, is the most reliable way towards peace".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the seizure of the Turkish ferry Avrasya by terrorists.

Russian Navy ships did not receive an order to intervene in the conflict, an unnamed spokesman for the Main Headquarters of the Russian Navy has told the newspaper. Russian patrol boats are out in the Black sea, "monitoring the situation", the spokesman said.

IZVESTIYA on the election of Deputy Speakers of the State Duma, the Lower House of the Russian parliament.

"The Communists are busy seizing power in the Duma" is how the newspaper comments on the election of the Duma Speaker and Deputy Speakers.

The commentator enters into polemic with those who regard Gennadiy Seleznev the Duma Speaker as the least of all the suggested evils. He doubts that Seleznev can be an impartial steward of the Lower House of parliament. IZVESTIYA emphasises that Seleznev himself has dispelled the idea by refusing to suspend his Communist Party membership for the period in office.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with State Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, who promised to "stand above parties' interests".

Seleznev told the newspaper that he "would go ahead with the procedure aimed at impeaching the President of Russia". The impeachment idea had been suggested by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. "But now that six months remain before the Presidential election, we have no right to launch such a procedure," Seleznev pointed out.

ROSSIYISKIYE VESTI on relations between the Federation and the regions.

These relations, which are not without problems, are the subject of an article by Leonid Smirnyagin, Head of the Regional Problems Department of the Presidential Analytcal Board.

Smirnyagin believes that "the Centre gives away powers but this only enhances its influence". Sverdlovsk Region Governor Eduard Rossel also expresses his point of view on the problem. He dwells on those possibilties which are being opened up for the region by the treaty, which was signed in Moscow recently, between the Federation and Sverdlovsk Region.

ROSSIYISKIYE VESTI on the fetal therapy footage of Der Spiegel-TV.

"The professed sensation of Der Spiegel-TV has flopped but the fatal problems of fetal therapy remain", the newspaper points out in an article about the footage shown by NTV on Christmas night.

The writer of the article reports the results of an inquiry made by a commission of the Collegium of the Russian Ministry of the Medical Industry. Fetal therapy, just as transplantation, should be under the control of law and the general public, the newspaper concludes.

ROSSIYISKAYA GAZETA on the preparation of a series of books about the Russian emigres.

The Russian Encyclopedia publishing-house prepares a unique series of books about the Russian emigres. The book series, which will have no analogues in the domestic book publishing business, will feature the Russian emigres who have enriched world culture, science, education and arts., the newspaper reports.

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Yeltsin Urges Azerbaijan To Concentrate on Karabakh Issue

LD1801133196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin at his face-to-face meeting with Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev in the Kremlin today called for Azerbaijan's concentration on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

While the years-long military conflict between Azerbaijan and its breakaway enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh had died down, controversy over the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh is persisting and being negotiated in difficult talks.

Aliyev had a preliminary meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov on Wednesday.

The Russian president's press service quoted Yeltsin as saying that the talk between Primakov and Aliyev, which "gave adequate time to international issues and bilateral relations", had allowed a more detailed discussion of solutions to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by the two presidents.

Later in the day, Yeltsin met in the Kremlin Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

"Let us actively handle the Karabakh problem, with our participation and participation of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe]," Yeltsin said during the meeting.

Moscow, Baku Sign Early Oil Transportation Agreement

LD1801183796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (PIA-INTERFAX) — Russia and Azerbaijan signed an agreement in Moscow on January 18 on transportation of early oil from the Azerbaijani offshore Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli oil fields through a Russian pipeline to a terminal on the Black Sea coast.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev signed the agreement.

Russia undertook to include the pumping of Azerbaijani oil into the operating schedule of its pipelines starting in December 1996. The amounts to be pumped will increase annually and total at least 5 million tonnes in 2002.

Russia will charge $15.67 per metric tonne of oil.

Chernomyrdin and Aliyev said at the signing ceremony that the agreement will put an end to controversy over the route of exporting early oil from Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani International Operating Company which coordinates the production project decided that a total of 32 million tonnes of early oil from the Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli will be pumped through the Baku-Grozny-Novorossisk pipeline in Russia and the Baku-Supsa pipeline in Georgia over seven years.

Chernomyrdin told journalists that the signing of this agreement implies that the system which has been in operation for years is reestablished. He said that the transit agreement will be in force for practical purposes from the time it is signed. The route is reliable and tested and can be improved further. Aliyev described the document as another step in consolidating Russian-Azerbaijani cooperation.

Asked to what extent the agreement influences the legal status of the Caspian Sea, Chernomyrdin said that numerous problems will have to be sorted out such as the increasing level of the sea which results in ecological disasters in the Caspian countries, shipping, fishing and mining.

Yeltsin, Uzbek President Discuss Economic Ties

LD1801205196 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, left Tashkent for Moscow today.

[Correspondent] This is the first meeting of the heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States this year. Important matters promoting the development of integration processes among the independent republics have been put on the agenda of the meeting. Answering journalists' questions at the airport, the head of our country said that subjects connected with the further search for effective ways of achieving economic integration among the CIS members will be considered at this meeting. Economic relations among the CIS countries should serve the cause of strengthening the independence of these states. This is the position from which we are approaching cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth, President Islam Karimov stressed. [passage omitted]

President Islam Karimov arrived in Moscow today. On the same day the president of our country had a meeting in the Kremlin with Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation. During the talk held between the presidents before the routine meeting of the council of CIS heads of state, they discussed matters connected

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with the strengthening of relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation both on a bilateral basis and within the Commonwealth, and they stressed the importance of expanding economic ties among the CIS countries.

Ukraine: President Kuchma Discusses Relations With Russia

LD1901003096 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2010 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 January, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma met deputy chairmen of Rayon state administrations on the premises of the Ukrainian Academy of State Management. Here is Ihor Kulinichenko with his report.

[Begin recording] [Kulinichenko] All aspects of Ukraine's internal and political life were discussed at the two-hour long meeting during which President Kuchma replied to all questions. It is obvious that those present were most of all keen to know more about the outcome of the talks in Moscow between the Ukrainian president and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Having described the talks as fruitful — in particular, regarding the discussion of problems pertaining to the signing of a long-term friendship and cooperation treaty and the process of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet facilities — Kuchma remarked that some problems had been unsolved. For instance, the issue of the status of the city of Sevastopol.

[Kuchma] There were claims that Sevastopol was Russia's naval base; however, the president of Ukraine could never agree with this.

At the latest meeting with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin we agreed not to link this issue with the signing of a long-term treaty, taking into account the fact that of late, there has been an absolutely normal dialogue between Ukraine and Russia regarding the settlement of these issues. And the majority of problems concerning the Black Sea Fleet have been virtually solved along the entire length of the Crimean coast, except for the city of Sevastopol proper. I believe we shall reach understanding on that issue, too, because I am well aware of the fact that Russia will never leave the Black Sea of its own accord. Our main task, as you understand, is to resolve border issues and the Black Sea Fleet issue; meanwhile, Russia's tasks are much more extensive. Therefore, we must proceed from this very fact. Instead of making a fuss, it is necessary to conclude a long-term treaty on the basing of the Russian Navy in Ukraine. And a relevant legal basis should be created for this both in Ukraine and in Russia.

[Kulinichenko] Kuchma said much attention had been paid at the talks to economic relations between Ukraine and Russia. However, in this area, too, the two presidents' stands diverged on many issues.

[Kuchma] Ukraine will under no circumstances join the customs union today. It is economically disadvantageous to us. However, I showed Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin an agreement on a free trade regime between Ukraine and Russia, which was signed by the two governments back in February 1995. I asked him: Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, why are none of the articles of the treaty on a free trade regime being implemented? And you are proposing that we join the customs union.

It was news to him. I explained things to him to a certain extent, as they say.

To date, there have been 220 exceptions in Russia regarding the trade regime with Ukraine. Quotas and licensing have now been withdrawn from that list; however, 180 kinds of products remained outside the free trade regime. This means that customs duties are added to Russia's domestic prices, and in trade with Ukraine the majority of raw materials are imported from Russia at much higher prices, sometimes even higher that world prices. This refers to oil, gas, all kinds of non-ferrous metals, and so on.

According to the most modest calculations, we lost approximately 1.2 billion dollars in 1995 because of this.

Here is a very simple example. You understand that the customs union envisages full transparency of borders. Tell me, please, who will buy Ukrainian coal from Ukraine if Russian coal is cheaper? Nobody. Meanwhile, we envisage and we see the prospects for the development of Ukraine's fuel and energy complex in the light of developing the coal industry. The reserves of coal in Ukraine are enough to last for 400 years. The thing is that the coal industry in its present state, which we inherited from the Soviet Union, is loss-making. The majority of mines were loss-making back in Soviet times. The last mine was built approximately in the 1950s.

I put this question to Kravchun, director of ZAZ [Zaporozhye automobile works in Ukraine]. I asked him: Please, tell me, how many years it will take you to go totally bankrupt if there is an open market and if you continue manufacturing this make of a car? Today, as you know, the VAZ [Volzhskiy automobile works in Russia] car is cheaper that the Ukrainian-made ZAZ car, if we do not take into account the customs duty. Therefore, we are still to go a long way to the customs union.

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After all, Boris Nikolayevich and I agreed to consider all these issues again, so that the free trade regime began functioning. And then all the restrictions currently existing in trade between us will be removed and the main (?thing) is a new policy line.

[Kulinichenko] Having recalled that Russia was and remains Ukraine's main partner, Kuchma focused the attention of those present on certain aspects of the forthcoming talks in Moscow. Kuchma hopes to continue discussing a number of important issues of interstate relations, which he submitted to the Russian side to finalize, during his meeting with Yeltsin.

[Kuchma] I say: Boris Nikolayevich, you keep saying through all the mass media that Russia loves Ukraine so much, and so on and so forth, and Ukraine does not love Russia. Let us consider several issues. Issue number one: I have often been travelling abroad and I have seen huge embassy buildings belonging to Russia. For example, in China, just one embassy, let alone all other buildings, occupies 16 hectares. The same picture can be seen in any other country. Huge assets of the former USSR can be found there. You pulled the wool over our eyes and told us that you were a successor to all that belonged to the Soviet Union. Does that mean that we do not have our share in it? That was a mistake [word indistinct]. It was necessary to write down the following: Boris, let us make friends, so to say. [audience laughs]. If you turned us out of all buildings abroad, please tells us: Is it strategic partnership, is it love to each other?

Or, if you say that Ukrainian sailors must leave Sevastopol, what does it mean? If we cannot live together in peace in one place, where do you propose us to go? To Donuzlav, where there is no... [pauses] Are we supposed to set up tents there? There are thousands of our [word indistinct]. Is this strategic partnership?

About 700-800 million dollars belonging to Ukrainian enterprises remained in the USSR Vneshekonombank [USSR Foreign Trade Bank]. Please, tell us what this is. Is this your attitude to us? I am saying nothing about the currency [word indistinct], the diamond and gold funds, and so on. This is where you should demonstrate Russia's attitude to Ukraine. [Words indistinct] some of the issues considered. [end recording]

That was a report from Leonid Kuchma's meeting with representatives of state administrations.

Russia Seeks To Improve Relations With Poland

MK1801133896 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian, No. 2, 14-21 Jan 96 (Signed to press 15 Jan 96) p 13

[Interview with Sergey Krylov, Russian deputy foreign minister, by Valeriy Masterov; in Warsaw, date not given: "How To Get Rid of Suspiciousness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The arrival in Warsaw of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov as the Russian president's special envoy and his meetings with the country's leading politicians can be regarded as an attempt to "remove irritants" in bilateral relations.

President Aleksandr Kwasnewskie is not tired of emphasizing the importance of relations with Moscow. He accepted Boris Yeltsin's invitation to visit Russia, which he will apparently do in the first half of April. Before then, there will be meetings between Russian and Polish foreign and defense ministers, and the Polish premier will also visit the Russian capital.

Sergey Krylov revealed details about his visit and his one-hour conversation with President Kwasnewskie to MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI's correspondent in Warsaw, Valeriy Masterov.

[Masterov] Boris Yeltsin's message to the Polish president does not mention the problem of NATO expansion. Was this subject raised during [your] meeting with President Kwasnewskie?

[Krylov] The question of NATO was raised but, unlike in the past, it was not the first subject of discussion. This, of course, does not mean that this problem is nonexistent or that it has become less acute. It is rather that other questions of bilateral relations are taking on greater importance. There is also another very important change: Discussions of NATO with their Polish colleagues are more professional and less emotional.

[Masterov] With Yevgeniy Primakov's appointment as head of Russian diplomacy, talk has begun about a change in Russia's policy with respect to Central European countries.

[Krylov] Russia's foreign policy is above all presidential policy, although the minister may have his views on what it should be. Therefore, there will not be any drastic changes in Russia's foreign policy. I believe that today our foreign policy is primarily based on our country's national interests, not on ideological or personal perceptions. And these interests consist in advancing relations with Central European countries, including Poland. Indeed, this region has not been given due attention for some time.

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[Masterov] What do you think is necessary for the development of Russian-Polish relations, and how might they be affected by the so-called "Oleksy affair"?

[Krylov] We certainly did not discuss any "Oleksy affair," because for Russia such an affair does not exist. I hope that the element of suspiciousness will eventually disappear from our bilateral relations. I agree with President Kwasnewskie that there are favorable conditions now for a basic improvement in our relations.

Shevardnadze, Yeltsin Discuss Cooperation, Abkhazia

LD1901110696 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As has already been reported, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze held a meeting yesterday.

Yeltsin noted the great significance of intensifying Georgian-Russian relations in all spheres of cooperation, as well as a systematic discussion of all pressing problems in these relations.

It was noted at the meeting that as a result of joint efforts by the two sides, it became possible to create a favorable atmosphere for resolving the current issues, all the more that there is a good legal basis for this — the friendship and cooperation agreement between the two countries.

Yeltsin and Shevardnadze discussed the settlement of the Abkhaz issue. In this connection, proposals made by the Georgian side were discussed. They will be discussed today at the plenary session of the heads of the CIS states. First and foremost is the expediency of the CIS states' imposition of the joint economic sanctions on the Abkhaz separatist regime, as well as a more effective use of the mandate by the Russian peacekeeping forces.

Primakov's Appointment To Leave Russia-Iran Ties Unaffected

LD1801202796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2020 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Denis Perkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Yevgeniy Primakov's appointment as foreign minister of Russia will "in no way change basic principles of relations between Russia and Iran", director of the information and press department of the Russian foreign ministry Grigoriy Karasin said today.

Iranian-Russian relations, the diplomat noted, are developing normally, "although, perhaps, one can think that their development should go ahead more dynamically in mutually acceptable and mutually interesting spheres".

Russian Foreign Minister Meets Tajik President in Moscow

LD1801214996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov met with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov in Moscow Thursday. Rakhmanov had arrived in Moscow to take part in tomorrow's meeting of the CIS Heads-of-State Council.

Rakhmanov congratulated Primakov upon his appointment as Russian foreign minister, Tajik Presidential Press Secretary Zafar Saidov told INTERFAX. The two statesmen exchanged opinions on the upcoming CIS summit, talks with opposition in Tajikistan and prospects for wider bilateral cooperation, he added.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev also took part in the meeting.

Japan Expresses Concern Over Russian Approach to Relations

LD1801193596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — A Japanese diplomatic representative visited the Russian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday to express his country's concern over remarks made by Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov over the territorial dispute between the two countries.

According to Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin, the minister-counsellor of the Japanese Embassy said that Japan cannot agree with the approach to resolving that problem in the way the territorial dispute between China and Japan was settled, namely: postponing solution of the territorial dispute and focusing on developing bilateral ties.

At his news conference Primakov mentioned Japan among the countries Russia intends to actively promote its relations with, Karasin said.

According to him, "Some progress has been reached in the Russian-Japanese relationship of late." However, Karasin added, "the dynamics of promoting relations between Russia and Japan still lag behind the global changes in world politics, and the coinciding potential of the two countries' interests has been used only in its initial stage."

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As for the territorial dispute, "it belongs to the most difficult and delicate problems," Karasin said. "The historic and practical experience of bilateral relations has proved that it cannot be settled overnight," he concluded.

There is understanding of this issue in Japan as well, the diplomat said. As an example, he cited a Japanese official as saying that he did not see reason in stepping up talks on South Kurils with Russia, considering the internal political situation in both Russia and Japan.

"The key to the territorial dispute is in the comprehensive and large-scale development of bilateral relations and their entry in a qualitatively new level, as envisioned by the Tokyo declaration," Karasin concluded.

Tokyo Issues Protest Over Russian Minister's Remarks

MM1901114996 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Tokyo Believes That Primakov Has Departed From the Line"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — According to the mass media here, Japan issued a firm protest on Wednesday [17 January] at the comments on the prospects for the development of Japanese-Russian relations by the new Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov at his first news conference.

Via a high-ranking diplomat at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow Tokyo has officially informed the Russian side that it regards Primakov's statements as a departure from the line enshrined in the joint declaration signed by President Yeltsin during his visit to Japan in 1993, cannot agree with that departure, and consequently protests.

To be clear about what is going on here it should be remembered that at his inaugural meeting with the press the new minister said in reference to Russo-Japanese relations that the resolution of the sensitive territorial question should be left "to future generations." It is that ostensibly innocent statement which has sparked the keen Japanese reaction and has been reflected not only in the text of the official note but also in the press.

Even though Smolenskaya Square [Foreign Ministry HQ] has expressed bewilderment at the protest because it does not see the "corpus delicti" that the Japanese spotted in Academician Primakov's comments, it would be naive to think that Tokyo would ignore the Russian minister's statements. What Russia's valiant diplomacy regards as a "play of nuances," Japanese diplomacy sees as a matter of principle. After all, in Russia there has been and still is no official line on the territorial problem in relations with Japan — there is a formal recognition of the problem's existence, there are a number of bland phrases about the problem but there is no clear platform on the fundamental issue — which is Moscow's intention.

This has been written about in the past but it needs to be repeated — Tokyo was and remains consistent and loyal to its cherished dream of recovering the disputed territories of the South Kurils and to that end is prepared to be flexible within certain limits, to be pragmatic within the broadest possible time frame, to make "good will" gestures, and even to use the "economic catalyst." Moscow's approach to the subject, however, shows neither consistency nor well-considered steps and has no long-term prospects to boast of.

Moscow's position lacks the main element that the Japanese seek — precision. Instead it uses the tactic of an often clumsy maneuvering over definitions — for example, what is the meaning of the phrase "principles of justice and legality," the implication of the recognition that the territorial question exists in bilateral relations, and so forth. The sly formula "let future generations decide" is of that stock too and furthermore is not new but is a thoroughly "hackneyed" thesis first voiced back in the late eighties.

This appeal to the diplomatic past is what alarmed the Japanese most of all — if it signals a retreat from guidelines which, although vague and uncertain, were achieved by dint of such hard work it is time to sound the alarm.

Russia: Chubays Resignation Impact Vis-a-Vis IMF Viewed

MM1801150196 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by Aleksey Portanskiy: "IMF Sits Down Again to Negotiate With Moscow, Turning a Blind Eye to the Departure of the Last Reformers" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow had a "surprise" in store to mark the start of the latest talks with the IMF on 17 January: First vice premier Anatoliy Chubays, whose job in the Russian Government had been to oversee, in particular, relations with international financial credit centers and had been appointed to head the Russian delegation at the current negotiations with the IMF, resigned on the eve of the talks.

Approximately one week before the IMF delegation arrived in Moscow the media ran a report citing an anonymous Western source to the effect that the Fund might harden its line at the upcoming talks with

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the Russian Government in the event of Chubays' resignation.

It should be reiterated that new faces do not mean a new policy, as Anatoliy Borisovich [Chubays] himself said in a spirit of traditional office ethics. Whether this is actually the case will become clear by the end of January, when the talks with the IMF are planned to end. The presence in the Russian delegation of such well-known market economists as Dubinin, Vavilov, Khandruyev, and Aleksashenko is encouraging.

You will recall that it is a question of granting Russian new credit, described as an "expanded fund facility" (EFF) or IMF "extended credit program." EFF applies to standard IMF instruments, applicable to countries that have reached the first stage of financial stabilization. Formally the size of the loan is 100 percent of the country's share of the Fund's authorized capital, that is, around $6.5 billion for Russia over three years. In fact, it could be granted $9 or even $12 billion if the talks are successful.

Russia has not yet taken out all of last year's stand-by Fund credit, because it was given a new time frame due to the budget problems. If it is accepted at the negotiating table that as of 1 January 1996 the government's economic program had been implemented without any serious discrepancies, the remainder of the credit, running up to 1 March, amounting to $11.1 billion will be granted.

In accordance with the tradition of recent years Moscow has already put $3.1 billion in new credit in the income part of the 1996 budget, although the agreement with the IMF on EFF is not due to be signed until the talks are concluded, whereupon the IMF board of directors will make its decision.

By and large the Fund has no complaints to make regarding Russia's implementation of last year's economic program and is prepared to talk about future credit. Therefore, the question of Moscow's having access to extended fund facilities was raised by Anatoliy Chubays during the fall session of the IMF and World Bank in Washington.

The Russian side is in the right position to begin successful talks with the IMF, Oleg Vyugin, chief of the Finance Ministry macroeconomic policy department, believes. For the first time the country has entered the new year with an approved budget, the indicators of which are acceptable to the IMF. Nonetheless many problems remains to be solved.

As ever there is not enough confidence that revenue items of the budget will be implemented. Therefore the IMF is demanding measures to improve tax collection. In contract to past years, when budget revenue was increased by liberalizing foreign economic activity, at the present stage a number of structural transformations needs to be carried out, without which any tough monetary policy has its limits. For example, land arrangements in the country are not yet part of the market economy infrastructure and therefore potentially major channels of budget revenue are blocked. Bank oversight urgently requires improvement — the budget is suffering due to a weak banking system.

The government must promptly examine the accumulated mass of questions of structural and institutional transformations. The disposition of forces in the changing government team is not yet clear, so it is hard to say how the aforementioned questions will be tackled.

Lebanon Prepares For Possible Chechen-Related Terrorism

LD1901080896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0804 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Anatoliy Golovastov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIRUT, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Lebanese security services are taking additional measures to prevent the penetration of the country by terrorists or members of extremist organisations.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learnt from reliable informed sources that this is connected with the fact that Lebanese security services have received information about the possibility of hostage-taking and other terrorist acts against Russian citizens in Lebanon, which has direct bearing on the developments in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye and the seizure of the ferry Avrasya in Turkey by terrorists.

Checking-up of foreign citizens entering the coutry has been enhanced at all border-crossing points, and additional measures are being taken to keep an eye on persons who are already in the country and who arouse the suspicion of security services.

Ambassador to Israel Bovin on Russia's Role in Near East

MK1901063696 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 2, 14-21 Jan 96 (Signed to press 15 Jan 96) p 13

[Interview with Aleksandr Bovin by Vladimir Polyak: "Things Russia Can Do"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Ambassador to Israel Aleksandr Bovin discusses the progress of Israel-Syria talks and the role of Moscow in the Near East settlement in an interview to MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI's correspondent Vladimir Polyak.

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[Polyak] Mr. Ambassador, the first two rounds of talks between Israel and Syria took place in the United States. Recently, Secretary of State Christopher visited Damascus for what seems to be the fifteenth time. What is Russia's role in advancing the peace process?

[Bovin] The positions of the United States and Russia cannot be compared. The Americans do not have the problems we have. Their financial capability is much greater, too. Therefore, they are more active. What results this brings, is another matter. Christopher had many discussions with Asad, Clinton talked with him, too. All to no avail.

The changes in Israel's leadership led to the renewal of discussions. Asad thinks — I don't know why — it will be easier for him to agree with Peres than it was with Rabin.

Now, about Russia. We are not competing with America. Nevertheless, the Russian president's special representative to the Near East and Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk has gone to both Damascus and Jerusalem more than once.

Another difficulty, it seems to me, is that our American friends often forget about cosponsorship and prefer to go it alone.

[Polyak] Is it possible that Israel will totally withdraw from the Golan Heights to achieve a "complete peace?"

[Bovin] Yes, in principle. If both sides agree on the idea of what constitutes "complete peace." And, second, if they agree on what "total withdrawal" is. This is not the case so far.

[Polyak] Mr. Ambassador, does Russia have any specific, tangible possibilities of influencing the peace process by, say, forgiving the debts it would not be able to recover from Syria in any case. The Americans, after all, remitted Jordan's debt, and this played a certain role.

[Bovin] The Syria-Russia and Jordan-United States analogy is inappropriate in this case. "Remitting" the debts had for Jordan, considering the overall context of its relationship with the United States, a real economic and political importance. Russia's dismissing its financial claims against Syria would hardly impress Damascus, I think. I think it is more productive to eliminate differences between Israel and Syria directly during bilateral talks.

[Polyak] If I have understood you correctly, Russia cannot afford to play the role the Soviet Union played earlier in the Near East?

[Bovin] Not only it cannot afford it, it does not want it. We do not want to be taken into consideration only because we are able to sell weapons, lots weapons. We do not want to conduct a unilateral ideology-permeated policy which forgets about the country's own interests. It is worth noting that even when we were playing "that role," the Americans and some our "friends" managed to keep us out of the Near East for the most part.

Big fists are always impressive. But one should also have a clever head. Especially when there is something wrong with the fists. Well, we are learning....

Russia's Shafranik, Egyptian Premier Meet; Discuss Dam

LD1801142896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Georgiy Shelenkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAIRO, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, attending celebrations of the 25th anniversary of launching the Aswan hydroelectrical dam in Egypt, met Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri today. Shafranik said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today that the talk, addressing a broad range of issues, was quite useful.

One of subjects was the stepping up of activities of the Russian-Egyptian economic cooperation commission, whose Russian co-chairman is Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov.

Specifically, Shafranik discussed with the Egyptian prime minister a dam reconstruction project.

Shafranik passed to the prime minister congratulations from Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on al-Janzuri's recent appointment for his post.

Iraqi Ambassador Welcomes Moscow's Position on Blockade

LD1801184396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — The Iraqi ambassador in Moscow, Doctor Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah, has said that the United States and its allies in the U.N. security Council are conducting a policy of delay and procrastination over the issue of lifting sanctions from Iraq.

"Iraq diligently complied with unprecedentedly tough and unfair resolutions hoping the U.N. security Council will reciprocate by easing and eventually lifting the economic blockade." he said.

The Iraqi ambassador says that in this context attempts by the United States and a number of other countries

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to impose new conditions not related with the Security Council's resolutions are evidence of their intention to prevent the lifting of sanctions and preserve the economic blockade to try to change the regime in Baghdad.

The Iraqi diplomat quotes British official sources as saying that in the Desert Storm operation the U.S.-led multi-national force used uranium-containing weapons banned by international law. "As a result Iraqi field and livestock farming was affected and some civilians developed radiation sickness," the Iraqi ambassador said.

He noted in particular that the "Iraqi leadership appreciated Russia's efforts in the U.N. security Council aimed at lifting the blockade from Iraq."

Iraqi Envoy: Russia Lost Billions of Dollars Due to Embargo

LD1801214396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Sergey Babkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia lost billions of dollars (U.S.) as a result of the embargo imposed on Iraq over the past five years, Iraq's ambassador to Russia Doctor Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah said here today.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the beginning of the military action against Iraq by the Multi-National force, the Iraqi envoy noted that Russia's losses have resulted from about 7 billion dollar debt, as well as damages caused by stopping bilateral economic, trade, industrial and military cooperation. The continuation of anti-Iraq sanctions does not provide an opportunity to put into action agreements concluded in the sphere of industry and oil production in 1994-1995, which exceeds 20 billion dollars.

Baghdad's representative expressed his gratitude to the Russian government and the ministry for emergency situations, which recently shipped humanitarian aid cargo to the Iraqi people.

In his reply to an ITAR-TASS question about Iraq's reaction to the outcome of the recently held elections to the parliament in Russia, Doctor Jum'ah noted that his nation respects political choice of the Russian people, which they made during the voting. He said that Baghdad's representatives have always maintained relations with all main political parties.

Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah expressed the hope that with the appointment of Yevgeniy Primakov as head of Russia's foreign-policy department Russia will soon occupy its fitting place in the world as a great power.

Russian Officer Discusses Bosnian Peacekeeping Operation

LD1801235296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1544 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ugljevik (Bosnian Serb Republic), 18 January — Major General Nikolay Staskov, deputy commander of Russian airborne troops responsible for peacekeeping operations, is convinced that the Russian brigade now deployed in Northeastern Bosnia and forming part of the 60,000-strong international force implementing the peace agreement will carry out its tasks of separating the warring sides in a proper way.

In an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, the general stated today that the transfer from Russia of the 1,600-strong brigade of airborne troops is proceeding "at full speed", and they are due from 1 February to start carrying out their duties. More than 300 soldiers and officers and dozens of vehicles, which have been airlifted in, are now deployed at Ugljevik, near Bijeljina, and in a few villages located in the Serb and Muslim territories. Eleven railway trains carrying approximately 100 tanks and armored personnel carriers, motor vehicles, and other combat equipment are due to arrive here between 23 and 28 January.

Noting the fine level of cooperation with the command of the U.S. 1st Armored Division, with which the Russian brigade is interacting during the peace operation in Bosnia, Staskov emphasized that our airborne troops are by no means subordinated to the Americans and they will be carrying out the orders only of their own national command and the commander of Russia's airborne troops.

Russian Tank Battalion To Reinforce S. Korean Armed Forces

LD1801193196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Vladimir Nadashkevich]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — A battalion of Russian-made T-80U tanks will join the South Korean armed forces, said South Korean Defence Ministry reports received here.

"This conforms to reality", representative of the state-owned company "Rosvooruzheniye" Valeriy Pogrebenkov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today.

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Six South Korean army officers are currently attending a 4-month training course in Russian Military Academy in Moscow. They are expected to return home at the end of this month in order to form a tank detachment comprising over 30 Russian tanks. The first of the T-80Us will be delivered to South Korea in this year.

Besides the tanks, Seoul will also receive armoured personnel carriers BMP-3, anti-tank missile system "Metis-M" and mobile anti-aircraft system "Igla". This is the first contract Russia has signed with South Korea. The military equipment is worth 180 million U.S. dollars. Traditionally Seoul had depended on U.S. military equipment.

Russian arms shipment to South Korea is aimed at clearing 387 million dollar credit. This is the first direction of bilateral cooperation. "The second tendency is cooperation in the sphere of scientific research and experimental designing", the 'Rosvooruzheniye' representative noted. Both, Russia and South Korea, are highly industrially developed states with immense potential in the field of scientific technologies", he said.

Valeriy Pogrebenkov, calling South Korea a "serious and perspective partner", especially emphasized that understandings reached are being fully implemented by both sides.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin, Primakov Discuss Ferry Hijacking, CIS Summit

LD1801194996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1832 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a meeting with Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov on Thursday, the presidential press service reported.

The president expressed concern over Tuesday's [16 January] hijacking of a ferry with Russians aboard by pro-Chechen guerrillas in the Turkish port of Trabzon and demanded that the Foreign Ministry and Russia's security services give "effective assistance" to Turkish authorities in efforts to release the passengers, whom the hijackers are holding hostage.

Primakov informed Yeltsin about a "plan for more active work" by his ministry, primarily in coordinating the country's foreign policy, the press service said.

Yeltsin and Primakov also discussed the agenda for the next Commonwealth of Independent States summit, scheduled for Friday.

Yeltsin Appoints Deputy Head of President's Administration

LD1801172296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1658 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday appointed Vladimir Antipov deputy head of the Administration of the President of the Russian Federation, a presidential spokesman told Tass today.

On January 15, Nikolay Yegorov took the office of the presidential head of staff to replace former administration head Sergey Filatov.

Tass also learnt that Valentin Rumyantsev has become chief of Antipov's secretariat.

Yeltsin Signs Decree To Insure Timely Wage Payments

LD1901152096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on measures to ensure the timely payment of wages, said presidential adviser on economics Aleksandr Livshits.

He said the decree banned the depositing or spending of free funds of government enterprises if that may lead to wage delays. The managers of government enterprises who abuse that rule will be fired at once and civil servants conniving with them dismissed, Livshits said.

In those joint stock companies where the government has major blocs of shares the government representative will be obliged, in case the enterprise spends free funds at a time when there is a wage delay, to convene a shareholders' conference within a month's time to decide one question, that of dismissing the director.

The presidential decree provides for the weekly publication of statistics about the money transferred to regions to pay wages to the employees of budget-financed enterprises. Livshits said that in many cases the money was misused, while teachers and medical workers blamed officials in Moscow for wage delays.

Livshits said that the government was given two weeks to draw up rules to the effect that those civil servants who are responsible for the economic sphere, including government ministers and presidential staff members, will be the last to receive salaries.

Livshits said that when she learned of this decree, his wife told him: "What do you think you are doing? We haven't got a vegetable garden to support the family."

Moscow Authorities Form Committee To Support Yeltsin

LD1901125496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Moscow regional executive authorities held a meeting on January 18 to form an organizational committee in support of Boris Yeltsin in the upcoming presidential elections, sources at the Moscow regional administration's information department told INTERFAX Friday.

The organizational committee is headed by regional governor Anatoliy Tyazhlov, who told the meeting "a new president will do no good to Russia."

This was Tyazhlov's first meeting with local heads after his election as governor, said the sources.

Tyazhlov announced that fulfillment of the law "On General Principles of Local Government in the Russian Federation" was a priority for the regional leaders.

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PRAVDA Ridicules Yeltsin's Third-Term Coyness

MM1801172496 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by Viktor Trushkov: "The Torments of Being Emperor. Only National Unity Can Resist Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How times have changed! Nowadays nobody believes nor even wants to pretend to believe in the existence of the emperor's new clothes. The sovereign himself is the sole exception. The old fairy tale came to mind in connection with B. Yeltsin's constant statements that he has still not decided whether to run for president.

A commission (and not just one) has been formed to nominate him — yet Yeltsin...has doubts. After he had persuaded S. Filatov, he signed an edict relieving him of his previous post so that Filatov could concentrate on organizing the election campaign for a second presidential term — meanwhile the president is giving himself headaches by agonizing over whether to be an election candidate. In bravura fashion he informed journalists (and the world) that his election staff will be headed by O. Soskovets — while he himself is reading dried chamomile leaves [allusion unknown] to find out whether he wants to remain president....

The man is not only admiring his new imperatorial clothes but is also pinning administrative decorations to them. When asked by journalists whether Soskovets would be relieved of his post as first vice premier in connection with his new appointment, Boris Nikolayevich wove an convoluted verbal confection: "He will be as follows: half-relieved of his post. Because that way it will be easier for him to work with ministries and departments. Do you understand? He will be given backing for his work — his main work. But to the other work he will make whatever contribution is necessary. He will probably have to work if not 24 then about 20 hours a day — and that is no lie."

So, Yeltsin is diligently getting together a team that can take him to 16 June fully prepared. Without any inhibitions, the priorities have been laid down for the aides who remain in state service: To work 24 hours a day for the election and to devote the 25th hour to discharging government duties. That is the first thing. The second, as the elections approach, is "to work with ministries and departments. Do you understand?" Let us try to guess....

That is why the new clothes of the emperor, who is tormented by doubts as to whether to make the people happy by continuing to rule or to "retire to a monastery," are in no way capable of concealing his naked lust for power. Even his courtiers do not notice his attire. Thus, Sverdlovsk Oblast Governor E. Rossel stated without embarrassment: "In this situation changing the president would simply be a crime by the people, if that is what the people were to do."

The election campaign is visibly gathering momentum. First Artistic Director M. Zakharov dubbed voters "slaves" en masse. Then V. Novodvorskaya, K. Borovoy's fellow composer of ditties, elevated all those selfsame voters to the rank of "morons." And now Rossel has taken Yeltsin's propaganda campaign to new heights.

After all, the worst thing you can do to slaves — "talking cattle" — is to send them to a stall. While a fixed punishment for "morons" has not even been thought up. It is another matter as regards a "criminal people" — quite definite places are set aside for criminals. Incidentally, Eduard Ergartovich [Rossel] is not a pioneer in this subject: It is simply that whatever the skilled craftsmen of the arts and of the television screen were doing by means of hints, the former Glavsreduralstroy [RSFSR Ministry of Construction Main Administration for Territorial Construction in the Central Urals] chief would cobble together without any frills. How the producers of Independent Television's new year party excelled themselves: The performers of lovely children's songs about a siskin, dog, monkey, and parrot (and a number of other things) were dressed in prisoners' striped garb! The governor simply operates on a broader scale: He has appointed not just those who can sing and bark but the entire people as candidate criminals. But on the whole this is chimes in absolutely with the mainstream of contemporary "democracy."

It cannot be ruled out that Rossel, without being relieved of "his main work," will be appointed as Filatov's assistant. They are very much kindred spirits. One threatened the people with civil war just before parliamentary elections, the other has threatened the people just before the presidential election with inevitable punishment for a very likely crime....

But all of them are uniting in this way. The selfsame "transformer" Rossel [allusion to rossels election movement "Transformation of the Fatherland"] is already regretting not having gone shares with Chernomyrdin in building the latter's home [reference to "Russia Is Our Home" — Chernomyrdin's election movement which won seats in Stat Duma]. But in order to get Yeltsin elected for another term it is certain that his "friends will pull together." They need a victory to reward the people royally for their "simple crime."

But if this does happen the culprits — first and foremost! — will, to be honest, not be they. A crime against the people is now being committed by those who are tying

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to smash the left-wing, people's patriotic opposition in the election campaign. Now even having a great czar's name-day is no grounds for high ambition. This is not to mention other — maybe really serious — reasons. In June the people will have to choose not politicians but a political course. As in nature there are two poles. On the one pole where Yeltsin's face is illuminated are the state machine, the ideological concussion media, threats of civil war, and even the categorization of the people as criminals.... On the other pole only unity can offer the strongest, most real resistance. To reject it is tantamount to treason.

Yeltsin Aid Livshits Wants To Stiffen Control Over Chechen Funds

LD1901115396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1141 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW [no date as received] — The Russian President's Assistant for Economic Affairs Aleksandr Livshits, speaking to journalists at a news conference in Moscow, suggested that control over spending funds appropriated to restore the Chechen economy and the social sphere, should be stiffened.

"According to all estimates, the year 1996 will see the start of the country's economic apsurge," he noted "it would be unreasonable to divert most funds of the investment programme to Chechnya".

According to Livshits, some 20,000 billion roubles will be appropriated for restoration work in Chechnya.

Yeltsin Blames Chubays for NDR's Failure in Duma Election

LD1901140096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1309 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Boris Yeltsin said that the policy carried out by former First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays was the reason why the electorate did not actively support the Russia Is Our Home [NDR] movement.

"Chubays is to blame that only 10 percent of the electorate voted for the Russia Is Our Home movement. Had it not been for the mistakes he made in economic policy, the turn out could have been at least 20 percent," Yeltsin told a news conference in the Kremlin.

He said it was necessary to make Chubays resign before the presidential elections scheduled for the summer of 1996.

Yeltsin named the main mistakes made by the former deputy prime minister as, first of all, irregularities in conducting auctions and tenders where state property was practically given away for love.

At the same time Yeltsin stressed that there was much positive in the work done by Chubays in his government post, and that it will be difficult to find an equal replacement for him. The president said he has several candidates for the post of the government's "chief economist," and that he will make his decision within a week.

Chubays May Be Appointed Russian Representative at EU

LD1901100696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0942 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Anatoliy Chubays, who was dismissed from the post of First Vice-Premier of the Russian government by a presidential decree on Tuesday [16 January], may be appointed Russian permanent representative at the European Union in Brussels. ITAR-TASS learned today that the possibility of appointing him to that post in the rank of ambassador is now being considered at the Russian Foreign Ministry. One of the arguments in favour of the candidature of 40-year-old Anatoliy Chubays, these sources assert, is his authority and broad contacts in European business circles.

The post of Russia's permanent representative at the European Union has remained vacant for two years. Ex-Premier Ivan Silayev, who was the last to hold this post, was dismissed in January 1994.

ITAR-TASS has learned that Chubays' candidature to the post of head of the Russian mission at the European Union has not been discussed yet by the Collegium of the Russian Foreign Ministry, but is being actively considered "at working level".

The appointment of Russian delegates to key international organisations is done by the Head of State.

The presidential decree says that Chubays was relieved of his duties of First Deputy Premier "in connection with his transfer to another job".

Democrats See Chubays' Resignation as Boost for Russian Economy

LD1801125696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — The Democratic Party of Russia led by Sergey Glazyev, hopes that the resignation of Anatoliy Chubays

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"signalled the Russian leadership's change-over to a carefully weighed-out and realistic economic policy in the interests of society and the state."

The Democratic Party of Russia circulated a statement Thursday which says that "the long overdue resignation of Anatoliy Chubays creates real conditions for macroeconomic stabilization and the beginning of economic growth in Russia."

The document also says that without Chubays the government will be able to begin tackling the economic tasks set forth in the president's messages to parliament in 1994-95, and take measures to protect the domestic market, invigorate the investment activity, promote scientific advances and protect and restore the population's savings.

Russia: TRUD Examines Chubays' Ouster, IMF Implications

MM1801131896 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by Lyudmila Pertsevaya: "Chubays' Departure Is Matter of Principle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The opposition had been seeking Chubays' resignation for so long and so persistently that it had been able to make him in many people's imagination almost the main culprit for all the evils and misfortunes connected with the adverse consequences of the reforms. Since his resignation, long awaited for some and unexpected to others, a number of experts have asked the first question: Who now will play the part of the "enemy of the people" and divert the mass of critical arrows from the opposition (and not only the opposition — let us recall what a fierce opponent of the "chief privatizer" Yu. Luzhkov, the Moscow mayor, used to be). By early 1996 Chubays was left virtually alone of the first team of reformers (they were also called the "suicidal government). It would seem that Zyuganov's party has one more reason to celebrate — after all, the most hated and uncompromising "capitalizer" of property has left. But there is also cause to be embarrassed: Yeltsin has promptly and drastically anticipated the Communists' demands and there would seem to be no cause for further bartering.

Tactically, in the context of the future elections, the president has perhaps won but can we believe as unconditionally that he has far-sightedly calculated all the strategic consequences of this step? Was there such a calculation at all?

The decision on the first vice premier's resignation was made in an extremely nervous situation. The war in Chechnya has entered the phase of mass acts of terrorism, which cannot fail to aggravate the broad public's dissatisfaction with the authorities' actions. And now a new ultimatum from the Vorkuta miners, who have not received wages since October last year, has landed on the president's desk. The workers at budget-funded enterprises are also starving and this time they are making political demands — the resignation of the president and government. A serious threat, particularly against the "fresh" background of the December elections. In a state of what some people say is extreme anger Boris Nikolayevich is telling V. Chernomyrdin everything he thinks about the government's actions and about Chubays in particular. On that day Chubays as "an honest officer" made a telephone call saying he was ready to go if he was inconvenient to the president — and the resignation took place. The leaders of the State Committee for the Administration of State Property, the Federal Administration for Insolvency (the bankruptcy administration), and the commission for securities sat down in a row at a press conference with their boss.... Neither Chubays nor the majority of them seem to have prepared fall-back positions for themselves. Answering your TRUD correspondent's questions Anatoliy Borisovich said that despite all the complexities of the domestic political situation he feels more confident than ever. The reforms, he believes, have finally begun to lead to tangible results and inflation has been virtually suppressed, the decline in production has been halted, the state's currency reserves have risen from $1 billion to $12 billion, and the ruble has stabilized....

"But the perfidy of the moment is that these results of reform have not yet had a decisive effect on the people's mood," Chubays noted. "The ordinary citizen from Ivanov or Kamchatka has no truck with the state's currency reserves if his wages are not being paid. But it would be a monstrous error to abandon the reforms which have already taken place and to go back, that would entail even more untold troubles for the country. An individual can be sacrificed, I do not overestimate my own importance, but we cannot sacrifice the transformations which should lead Russia to the civilized market."

Anatoliy Chubays deemed it necessary to stress that he had no sense of being totally alone in the corridors of power. On the contrary. A team of professionals who know their job in theory and practice has finally taken shape and the ministries of finances and the economy, the Central Bank, and the State Committee for the Administration of State Property are working harmoniously.

Nor, probably, did this resignation please the prime minister, who recently said that Chubays has changed and has grown as a member of government who has a

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sober approach toward matters. An enormous number of current operational affairs were concentrated in the hands of the first vice premier. Of the most important we should name work in the commission on nonpayments, in the commission on securities, and work to ensure IMF credit lines. Experts believe that Chubays could also influence the conclusion of a new accord on granting Russia a loan of $9 billion for a period of three years. An IMF delegation has arrived in Moscow and is now in an extremely difficult position: Chubays' successor (who is he?) must be able to guarantee the continuity of reforms to the IMF.

And so the most sensational resignation of recent times has taken place and Chubays has stressed that he is leaving all his state posts without exception and that he has resumed his membership of the "Russia's Democratic Choice" party but has not yet decided what work he will do. He is not inclined to dramatize the situation but e fears most that there may be a change of course in the succession of sacrificial ploys. That, in his opinion, would indeed be an irreparable tragedy for the country. The future will show whether the president will be able to balance in this complex political game without surrendering his course and curtailing reforms.

Russian Government Source Says AvtoVAZ Chief To Replace Chubays

LD1801154596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Vladimir Kadannikov, general director of Russia's major car-making AvtoVAZ company, will most likely replace Anatoliy Chubays in the chair of first deputy prime minister in charge of the national privatization programme, a source in the governmental staff told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

According to the source a decree appointing Kadannikov first vice premier will be signed by President Boris Yeltsin "in the near future, maybe even today."

Yeltsin Receives Letters Asking Him To Stand for President

LD1801214496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Letters are sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin asking him to agree to run for president at the upcoming June presidential elections, sources in the presidential staff told INTERFAX Wednesday [17 January].

According to the presidential staff, Yeltsin's mail includes numerous appeals from large industrial enterprises and public organizations.

In particular, the Union of Oil Industrialists of Russia views Yeltsin as the only politician who can ensure the irreversibility of economic reforms and preserve the territorial integrity of Russia.

The management of the United Energy System joint-stock company has assured Yeltsin that should he decide to run, he will be supported all over the country.

Most letters ask the president to agree to continue leading the country through the current difficult period.

Zyuganov Says Yeltsin 'Should Not Run for Reelection'

LD1601150396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1331 GMT 16 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 16 (INTERFAX) — Leader of the Communist Party of Russia Gennadiy Zyuganov has criticized Russian President Boris Yeltsin, saying that he should not run for re-election.

"It would be better both for Boris Yeltsin and for the country as a whole if Yeltsin did not nominate his candidacy for the next presidential term due to the state of his health," he said.

"I think all groups in society would understand this correctly," Zyuganov said to journalists during an interval at the session of the State Duma Tuesday.

Asked how the events in Pervomayskoye would affect the presidential campaign and whether they would increase Yeltsin's chances, Zyuganov said, "I think that nothing will increase his chances because his policy is completely bankrupt and has failed."

Today the president who calls himself a guarantor of the Constitution "does not guarantee the first right of a human being, the right to life and security," Zyuganov said.

Lebed, Zhirinovskiy Nominated for Russian Presidential Elections

LD1801184796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Documents from the Congress of Russian Communities which nominated Aleksandr Lebed for presidency and from the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia which nominated Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will be considered by the Central Electoral Commission, commission member Olga Zadorozhnaya told INTERFAX Thursday.

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The commission has registered 17 groups which have fielded candidates for presidency. Three of them nominated the incumbent president Boris Yeltsin.

Agrarians Condemn Gorbachev's Plans To Run for President

LD1801190396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Agrarian Party has described ex-president of the former Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev's plans to run for president as an "alarming symptom."

It circulated a statement Thursday, which says that "behind the back of this 'shadow economy' leader, whose name symbolizes the breakup of the great power and the predatory ruin of the Communist Party, stand the same destructive forces which have nothing to do with the people's actual interests and which are strongly connected with anti-Russia Western circles."

"Gorbachev's claims on the leading role in the centrist and social-democratic forces should be opposed by a union of the left-wing movements and parties," the document says. "Talks must be initiated urgently to create an alliance of left-wing forces and to advance a single candidate to the presidential post from the left-wing opposition," says the statement by the Agrarian Party.

Russia: Government Reshuffle Attributed to Communist Victory

LD1801183996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — State Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev (Communist Party) speaking on Thursday admitted that the latest government reshuffle was being carried out under pressure from the Communists due to their election victory.

"We can see that the president and government are implementing our goals. They formally say they are not heeding us (the Communists), but in essence, they are," he said. To make his case, Seleznev pointed out the president's and prime minister's backing of the party's proposal about the need for adopting a special government program of social security nets.

The speaker denied that the Communist party was engaged in any horse trading with the government either in public or behind-the-scenes. "We will not join the government until we see it radically change the policy of reforms," he said.

Yeltsin Condemns Yabloko for Supporting Communists in Duma

LD1901135996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1319 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today condemned the position taken by the Duma Yabloko faction during the election of the speaker of the State Duma. As it is known, Gennadiy Seleznev, member of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation was elected to this post.

At the news conference held at the end of the meeting of the CIS heads of state he said that during the election of the speaker "Ivan Rybkin failed because Yabloko, working under democratic slogans, joined with the communists. If it [Yabloko] hadn't supported the communists, Seleznev would not have been elected," Yeltsin added.

Collusion in Russian Duma Between CPRF, Yabloko Falls

MK1801132096 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya: "In Duma Backstage. Communists Take a Bite Out of 'Yabloko': There Will Be No Party Paradise"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new Duma's period for setting up housekeeping may be prolonged — the deputies devoted virtually all of yesterday just to electing their speaker. This happened because the leaders of the four Duma factions were unable to agree on distributing the portfolios in the previous few days. Your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent learned some details, cited below, which may explain the reasons for the futile negotiating process.

The atmosphere of the talks is well characterized by Communist leader Zyuganov's well-known observation that the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] faction is so strong that it can apportion all the Duma portfolios without including the remaining three factions. KOMMERSANT-DAILY learned that this jocular scenario came close to being carried out in practice.

The Communists are known to lay claim to most of the Duma portfolios, but some have to be parceled out to the others, too. The Communists who called the shots at the negotiating process agreed with "Yabloko's" wishes: they set aside for Yavlinskiy a vice-speaker seat and four committees: on budget (Zadornov), international affairs (Lukin), industry and natural resources. Under the draft agreement signed by Zyuganovites, Zhirinovskiy was to get the seat of vice speaker (for himself), as well as the committees his faction was in charge of in

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the departed Duma. Things were not so easy with the NDR [Russia Is Our Home] faction which, as a newcomer in the lower house, had yet to stake out its zone of influence. It demanded the committees on property, legislation, defense and local self-government, as well as a vice speaker seat. In their largesse, the partners only agreed to let the faction have the defense committee (General Rokhlin) and the local self-government committee (Vl. Ryzhkov) and suggested that the other two committee requests be substituted by simpler ones. In doing so Zyuganov accused Belyayev (leader of the second largest Duma faction) of exorbitant demands.

Furthermore, the authors of this variant of the package agreement also incorporated a number of other features. First of all, the package [agreement] was supposed last two years during which the understandings reached were supposed to remain firm. In particular, the committee chairs were to be inheritable, that is to say, should a committee chairman leave, his office would remain with his faction (this principle was not observed in the previous Duma). It was supposed to introduce an additional speaker post (for the Communists, in addition to the speaker and one deputy [speaker] intended for them) and four new committees, including committees on veterans affairs, culture and tourism. The first committee was intended, one would think, for Korovnikov from the CPRF list who headed a similar committee in the Khasbulatov Supreme Soviet. Furthermore, establishing it narrowed down the sphere of activity of the already existing committee on labor and social support headed by LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction member Kalashnikov. As they say, perhaps a mere nothing but it feels good anyway.

Finally, they also planned to introduce the "imperative mandate" [imperativnyy mandat] sought by the Communists and the LDPR (the principle of united voting by faction and punishment of the disobedient by even depriving them of seats). Some points in the agreement, if realized, would actually amount to curtailing the rights of independent deputies. Increasing the numerical threshold for the registration of deputy groups was proposed — which would in fact deny the independents the possibility of uniting to protect their interests. Should they manage to get registered after all, they all are to be assigned the following posts, candidates for which have been agreed upon with the Communists: vice speaker (Abdulatipov), the agrarian policy committee (reserved for the Agrarians, naturally) and the committee on the affairs of the North (polar explorer Chilingarov). And they all may have one vote in the Duma council.

Disagreeing with that option, Belyayev proposed a scenario with two packages: first to elect the speaker and his deputies and then move on to register the three already formed deputy groups, and only then, with their participation, go on to divide the spheres of influence in committees and commissions. When he was refused, Belyayev walked out. Soon Zhirinovskiy walked out of the CPRF faction room where consultations were under way. The vigil continued by the narrow circle of confederates — the CPRF and "Yabloko."

Unfortunately the one package "for two" option could not go through for the mundane reason of a lack of votes: the CPRF had 157 and "Yabloko," 45, whereas 226 votes were necessary. Then they made an attempt to find new negotiating process partners elsewhere among the independent. Invited to play "a card game for four" were the Ryzhkov-Baburin group and the Agrarians. They declined. Had they agreed, the Zyuganov-Yavlinskiy deal could have formed the basis of a new package.

As a result, however, the idea for a civilized, "package-based," division of spheres of influence in the Duma died. At curtain fall, trying to save its chances on getting the Duma speaker seat, the CPRF faction decided to replace the candidature of Kuptsov (Zyuganov's first deputy in the CPRF leadership), whom the Duma could only be persuaded to accept as part of a package deal, with the more moderate Seleznev (PRAVDA chief editor).

Thus, the behind-the-scene collusion in the Duma did not succeed. However, the Duma is surely to run into more attempts to usurp power by party factions. Especially if the imperative mandate should be introduced. This is one of the ultimate consequences of the poor quality of the election legislation.

New Russian Chief of Staff To Focus on 'Political Forecasting'

MM1701144096 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jan 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Forecasting and Monitoring of Implementation of Edicts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday saw the first press conference by Nikolay Yegorov, the new chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

He stressed that one of the Staff's main tasks will be to organize more rigorous monitoring of the implementation of the head of state's edicts and directives. The Presidential Staff, Nikolay Yegorov said, will devote more attention than before to the drawing up of analytical materials and political forecasting.... This will provide the opportunity to examine various scenarios for

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the development of the situation and to control events, instead of just reacting to them.

Russia: Nazarchuk Comments on Dismissal, Purge in Regions

MM1801170396 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 96 pp 1,2

[Interview with dismissed Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk by Yuriy Dokarev; place and date not given: "Secrets of the 'Kremlin Court.' Aleksandr Nazarchuk: 'Even After My Dismissal I Told Chernomyrdin Again That the Government's Agrarian Policy Is Erroneous'" — first two paragraphs are PRAVDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the sequence of complicated government moves following the elections to the State Duma, the dismissal of Aleksandr Nazarchuk from the post of Russian minister of agriculture and foodstuffs was received by many as a bolt from the blue. He did not share this cabinet's monetarist anti-people policy, and, with the victory of the Communists — the agrarians' most loyal comrades in arms — he should have not only kept his minister's post, but also strengthened his position.

However, there is a different logic in the "White House": "Secrets of the Spanish court" take precedence over common sense.

[Dokarev] When did you find out about your dismissal, Aleksandr Grigoryevich?

[Nazarchuk] These matters are not new to me. They have been particularly exacerbated recently. At the government sitting 28 December Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin and I were supposed to report on why we were not presenting a program for the stabilization of the agro-industrial complex up to the year 2000. The sitting was over in literally 30 minutes. No one listened to anyone else. But the premier stated: If these two ministers do not eliminate their differences of opinion, then we will remove them.

[Dokarev] What differences are these?

[Nazarchuk] I was urged to move away from the actual concept of the program for the stabilization of the agro-industrial complex, which appeared as a result of a great deal of work, including a two-day Russia-wide economic conference in which all regions and Premier Chernomyrdin himself participated. Fundamental approaches were determined. Suddenly it was no longer a question of editorial "tidying up," but of changing agreed fundamental principles.

First of all, the state regulation of the agro-industrial complex is questioned. It is ruled out as a method. In the draft presented by the Ministry of Economics the agro-industrial complex is regulated exclusively by the market. No approaches connected with parity between the agro-industrial complex and other sectors, no support, subsidies, or compensation — survive as best you can. Land relations are being treated absolutely market-fashion now; they have forgotten about protecting the domestic commodity producer. I reminded Viktor Chernomyrdin about my address to the Russian Supreme Soviet in April 1992. Back then I said that the Gaydar price liberalization and opening up of the borders to an uncontrolled flow of foreign commodities would destroy domestic commodity production and our peasants. So you see, when it became clear to me once and for all that all the differences of opinion between the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs are settled at the expense of the agro-industrial complex, then I decided for myself: Not with my participation!

[Dokarev] Yes, but on the day of your dismissal, at the Agrarian Party plenum, you did not confirm this decision, although you did not reject it either.

[Nazarchuk] What else could I do? In the morning they announce to us that Yasin and Urinson are dismissed, but by the evening it suddenly turns out that "no one knows anything."

[Dokarev] What does the dismissal mechanism look like today in general?

[Nazarchuk] I have already cited the premier's remark. In the New Year I had a conversation with Aleksandr Zaveryukha. He said that the president was insisting on resignations — his and mine. But as far as he was concerned, Viktor Stepanovich said something to the effect that he knows him and will work with him, whereas I had to meet with the premier. I called Viktor Stepanovich. He said to me: "I will invite you." I waited, but he did not initiate anything until 11 January — and, as it happened, this was the day that the two-week deadline for agreeing positions with the Ministry of the Economics ran out. We met in the afternoon. I immediately understood that our "coordination" was limited to mere word games, and once again I decided: Let them do this without me. Viktor Stepanovich invited me in the evening of 11 January, but my application for resignation was not required. The premier wondered how the APR [Agrarian Party of Russia] plenum had gone and whether such a party still exists. I said "Yes, we will strengthen it." We discussed other subjects. Then he said: "You must change your job." "Yes," I said, "I am ready." I recalled that I had handed in

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my resignation back in the summer, since I did not agree with the government policy in respect of the agro-industrial complex.

[Dokarev] I have heard that Yeltsin's edict couches it in terms of "in connection with a transfer to a different job." What job is that?

[Nazarchuk] The discussion with the premier took less than an hour. I was instructed to run a scientific research institute. I said that I had to consult my family, go back home to Altay Kray, and hear what my comrades have to say. From what Viktor Stepanovich said, they are not going to appoint a new minister yet; they will make Zaveryukha acting minister.

In the evening the news came out that the edict on my dismissal had been signed.

[Dokarev] Could you say that your dismissal was an act which was not professional or administrative, but political?

[Nazarchuk] Certainly. Following my departure there was a series of dismissals of our supporters in the regions, too. Ivan Tolok, chief of the Tver Oblast Agricultural Administration — for no reason and despite the fact that his work was fine. A number of leaders who campaigned for the APR — at various levels — are on their way out. In Saratov, for example, they did not just dismiss the man in question himself but are also vowing to dismiss his wife, who is the principal of a school. They are dismissing them and not offering them anything else. Even worse: They are stipulating "without the right to occupy a senior post," as if they were criminals. This is quite simply degenerate.

Agrarian Party of Russia Deplores Nazarchuk's Dismissal

MM1801161296 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 3

[Agrarian Party of Russia Board statement signed on its behalf by Agrarian Party Chairman M. Lapshin in Moscow, on 13 January 1996: "Stab in the Back for Peasants"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We assess President Yeltsin's Edict of 12 January 1996 on the dismissal of Russian Minister of Agriculture and Food Aleksandr Nazarchuk as a cruel stab in the back for the agricultural sector and Russian peasants as a whole.

A highly skilled specialist, genuine professional, and experienced and skilful organizer of agrarian production has been removed from the government. From his first days in post Minister A. Nazarchuk showed himself to be a principled and consistent defender of rural interests. He bravely spoke out against the hypocritical and duplicitous agricultural policy of Chernomyrdin's government, which involves it declaring from the podium its concern for the domestic agricultural commodity producer, when in fact discrimination is being practiced against Russian peasants in favor of Western competitors and ruinous models for the reorganization of the economy's agrarian sector are being introduced.

Minister Nazarchuk strongly protested the government's anti-peasant policy and First Vice Premier A. Chubays' course, which led to the Law on the Budget being systematically ignored, and, as a result, to agriculture being constantly left until last with regard to the volume of finance it received.

A. Nazarchuk's firm position on the land question is also well known — his speech on 27 October 1995 at the Second All-Russia Rural Assembly was at odds with the intentions of the government and the "Russia Is Our Home" bloc to under some pretext or other set in motion the mechanism of buying and selling of land and turn land into a commodity, an object of speculation.

A. Nazarchuk openly and firmly defended the interests of the sector and peasants everywhere and at all levels. Unfortunately, the agriculture minister was alone in the government in his demands.

We have every reason to assert that Nazarchuk was relieved of his duties for his convictions. His dismissal is the "Our Home" elite's revenge for their bitter defeat in the December elections, as the majority of rural regions did not support the Chernomyrdin bloc.

Both the prime minister and the president know, of course, that Aleksandr Nazarchuk, who worked previously as chairman of the State Duma Committee for Agrarian Questions, was appointed to the post of minister in accordance with the demands of the All-Russia Rural Assembly, which took place in Moscow in August 1994. The unjustified and hasty dismissal of A. Nazarchuk severs the final links between the peasants and Chernomyrdin's government. By taking this step, the authorities have finally and completely set themselves in opposition to the interests of the rural areas.

[signed] Chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia M. Lapshin, on behalf of the board
[Dated] Moscow, 13 January 1996

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Latsis Quits Yeltsin's Presidential Council Over Pervomayskoye

MM1801152596 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 2

[Letter from IZVESTIYA political observer Otto Latsis, sent to Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin on 17 January 1996: "IZVESTIYA's Political Observer Quits Presidential Council" — first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] We publish below a letter sent by IZVESTIYA's political observer O. Latsis to Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin 17 January.

Esteemed Mr. President!

I would ask that, as of today, I be no longer considered a member of your Presidential Council.

The reason behind my decision has nothing to do with any personal grievance because of the unanswered letters sent to you and signed by myself and my Council colleagues M. Chudakova, S. Kovalev, Ye. Gaydar, Yu. Karyakin, and others, starting from the very first days of the war in Chechnya and going through the very last few days when the storming of Pervomayskoye was being prepared. Nor is it anything to do with the fact that the Council's work has been nothing but window dressing over the last two years (it has not assembled in full since April 1994). You are formally entitled to do all this, since the Council's standing orders are not prescribed by any law. But the point is that your decisions associated with the war in Chechnya have rendered immoral any position which might be perceived as even indirectly supporting such decisions.

Of course, this became obvious immediately following the start of this unnecessary war, in other words more than a year ago. I do not think that it is any secret for you that even then some Presidential Council members discussed the possibility of quitting it. We were held back by the illusory hope that our voice against the war would be at least slightly more audible if we were to protest against it as members of Russia's Presidential Council. But now one can see how naive this was, even though the start of talks in the wake of Budennovsk seemed to confirm the reality of these hopes.

The order to storm Pervomayskoye once Raduyev had abandoned all political demands meant that the hostages would be killed, despite the fact that there is an opportunity to save them. Security Service General A. Mikhaylov openly declared today that the freeing of the hostages is not the purpose of the operation. And this was said at a time when nobody knows for sure that the hostages are no longer alive. People whose advice you take have yet again turned a moral-political defeat of the Dudayevites into a defeat for Russia. It cannot be ruled out that they hope to boost your chances of reelection this way. I think that this is a fatal mistake.

[signed] Otto Latsis

Russia: Daily Questions CPRF's Constitutionality

MM1901095496 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jan 96 p 2

[Article by Vladimir Guliyev under the "Subjectively" rubric: "But Is the CPRF Constitutional?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A question of key historic significance has been the subject of public discussion in Russia and has been debated particularly intensively since the undoubted election success (although, as we at ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI predicted, it was not an undivided victory): What would a victory for a communist candidate in the presidential elections in the summer of this year entail? There seems to be less and less doubt, even among inveterate skeptics, that these elections, like the parliamentary elections, will take place (and our newspaper unequivocally predicted this, too, in the 4 January 1996 New Year issue). So what could it lead to if a communist won the presidency?

We are talking about the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] nominee. In the context of the December election results, that is only natural. Although there can be no doubt of the kinship between the positions of the communist parties of Zyuganov, Anpilov and Tyulkin, Shenin, and in many respects even N. Andreyeva. Without going into detail, aphoristically I would characterize the connection thus: "What Zyuganov thinks, Anpilov says."

Astute critics of the Russian communist movement reject, of course, the complacent statements of certain liberals that the Zyuganovites are more social democrats than communists and that such a big country as Russia cannot be turned back onto the path of socialism on the Marxist-Leninist model even by the exertion of presidential powers and the most powerful faction in the State Duma. The experience of communist coups and their devastating consequences refutes this last view.

But all this is by way of introduction. The main thing, since we are living in a constitutionally proclaimed rule-of-law state, is that the CPRF, in its official program documents (first and foremost the CPRF Program adopted by its third congress on 22 January 1995), encroaches on the foundations of the Russian Federation constitutional system, and in this sense, in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation Law on Public Associations, it is not a constitutional political party.

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"How can that be," many readers will say, "when the Communist leaders, headed by Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov, never tire of repeating the opposite: 'We will win power by constitutional means, through election victory, we reject the path of revolutionary coups, violence, the seizing of power,' and so on, and so forth. [no closing quotemarks as published] So they do, but isn't all this verbal hokum just camouflage? Let's try to find out. True, as long as the post of guarantor of the Constitution, president, and supreme commander in chief is in Boris Yeltsin's hands, there is no realistic way to power other than those stipulated by the Constitution. To Gennadiy Zyuganov's credit, he realized this back in September 1993, when he warned communists against participating in an armed venture to overthrow the legitimate president. And he, Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov, a professor and doctor of sciences, knows all about the practice of "communist penetration" (as attested to long ago by Western Marxologists) and the "parliamentary path to socialism" (as it was called at the 20th and 22d CPSU Congresses, in the 1961 CPSU program, and at international conferences of communist parties in the sixties), and, as head of the CPRF ideologists, has obviously formulated tactics for the power struggle making use of the constitutional institutions of the 1993 Russian Federation Fundamental Law.

The crux of the matter is that the CPRF, guided by the subversive, historically criminal theory of Marxism-Leninism (Bolshevism) — that is, the theory of the class struggle (which is the source of civil war), of the "power of working people under the leadership of the working class" (the "dictatorship of the proletariat" according to Lenin, unrestricted by any laws) — and by the goal of "expropriating the expropriators" (the redivision of property), puts forward economic, social, political, and ideological goals which are absolutely incompatible with the fundamentals of Russia's constitutional system.

In other words, not only do the general social principles of the communist movement in Russia threaten a repetition of its tragic fate in 1917-1991 (with dangerous consequences for the whole world), but also in the strictly juridical, constitutional-legal sense the CPRF program is unlawful, the party's registration was a mistake by the Justice Ministry, and consequently its participation in the elections is hardly lawful. But are these grave accusations and severe legal characterizations unsubstantiated?

Let us look at the CPRF's documents and statements by its official leaders.

The 1993 Russian Federation Constitution itself is described in the CPRF program and other documents as "anti-people." Thus, the party declines a priori to observe it, just as soon as it has the opportunity. Furthermore the Communist Party sets the goal of amending or replacing the Constitution immediately after seizing power (victory in the presidential elections). This proposal may be dangerous, but is not illegal in itself. But the Communists are not talking about the constitutionally stipulated procedures for amending the Fundamental Law. And when it comes to the fundamentals of the constitutional system, under the Constitution, amending it requires the convocation of the Constitutional Assembly, on which a federal constitutional law has yet to be adopted — the fifth State Duma did not get around to it. So the Communists have decided to change the Constitution in circumvention of the Constitution itself, in full accordance with Lenin's precept: "It is a poor communist who, in a revolutionary era, is stopped by the 'immutability of the law.'"

To be more specific, let us turn to Chapter 1 of the Constitution, "Fundamentals of the Constitutional System." The CPRF intends:

— immediately to abolish the post of Russian Federation president, that is, to "cut" Article 11 of the Constitution;

— to substitute for the equality of private, state, and municipal ownership the "leading role" of state ownership (ownership "by the whole people") (thus, to amend Article 8 of the existing Constitution);

— to consolidate the status of state ownership of land, contrary to Article 9 of the Constitution;

— to restore the Republic of Soviets, which, as is known, rejects the principle of the separation of powers — a total revision of Article 10 of the Constitution — and which also does not recognize local self-government separate from state power (abandonment of Article 12);

— to restore the "leading role" of the Communist Party — getting rid of the equal multiparty system (Article 13) and once again imposing on society the ideology of Marxism-Leninism, only this time coupled with the strong-state patriotic idea, that is, putting an end to ideological diversity (Article 13 again);

— to get rid of the restraining wording of Article 13, which prohibits the kindling of social discord, and to unleash a struggle against "exploiters, the comprador bourgeoisie, and the anti-people regime";

— to circumvent Article 16 of the Constitution, which declares: "The provisions of the present chapter of the Constitution constitute the fundamentals of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation and

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cannot be changed other than in accordance with the procedure laid down by the present Constitution."

Thus, a political party that seeks, theoretically by constitutional means, to achieve objectives that are frankly anticonstitutional, enjoys total freedom of political activity on the basis of a Constitution that is not recognized but rejected by that party in the first place.

The opposition that is outside the system, in the shape of the CPRF and its allies, is openly preparing to pursue a "parliamentary-presidential path to socialism," and to do so unhindered.

What is this but subversive activity, connived at by the plenipotentiary institutions of state power — the Prosecutor's Office, the Justice Ministry, the Supreme Court — by their nonintervention?!

Yet they have at their disposal strictly juridical, legal instruments for curtailing anticonstitutional transgressions — the revocation of the party's registration and the refusal of registration of the party's candidate in the elections.

Military Issues

New Duma Urged To Increase Russia's Military Funding

MM1801132896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by Ivan Ivanyuk under the "On the New Duma's Agenda" rubric: "Military Spending Must be Reviewed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We launched the rubric "On the New Duma's Agenda" two weeks before the new lower chamber of the Federal Assembly began work. We did this consciously because we wanted to outline in advance a number of the most acute issues in the life of the Army and Navy so that they could be included on the agenda of the State Duma's opening sessions. On 4 January we published an article entitled "Free the Army from Debts," which examined the lack of a mechanism to provide guaranteed funding for the Armed Forces in free market conditions. On 11 January we published an article entitled "Lots of Increases, Little Sense," which discussed the need to restore social justice when evaluating military labor in various power ministries. And finally, on 13 January, we published the article "The Soldier in Chechnya: You Get 200,000 for Serving, and If You Die Your Family Gets 3 Million." That title speaks for itself.

Life itself dictates that these topics take priority in the extensive range of Army problems which have not been regulated by law. Recent events in Chechnya have exposed the disastrous nature of the military finance policy pursued in the last two years by the executive organs with the connivance of parliamentarians. It is indicative that at its final session, two days ago, the Federation Council adopted a special decision on combating terrorism and, in particular, asked the government to increase budget spending on the upkeep of the power structures and increase pay for Armed Forces and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] servicemen. There were loud declarations about how an impoverished and hungry Army could not safeguard Russian citizens' security and peace. The senators' insight is remarkable, albeit somewhat belated....

No matter how the Sixth State Duma's work shapes up, by all accounts it will have no choice but to review the new federal budget. Just as it had to be amended last year. When summing up the year's financial results at a recent news conference, Russian Federation Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov cited the following figures: The expenditure section of the initially approved budget has been fulfilled 103 percent and the version amended by the State Duma in December has been 90-percent fulfilled. In 1994 budget fulfillment was just 60 percent....

This semi-triumphant report will perhaps please some people but it does not please servicemen. A very significant proportion of the budget debt two years ago was due to the Armed Forces, which in turn owed their partners the astronomical sum of over 12 trillion rubles [R] by the beginning of 1995. The government does not have the money to settle all these debts, and what is more the Army's debts to its suppliers and those who carry out its orders continued rising this year to approximately R18 trillion. The Defense Ministry's debts for fuel and municipal services alone stood at R2.8 trillion on 1 January 1996. And this is in the depths of winter, when it is increasingly difficult to request coal or fuel oil on credit and the temperature in the barracks and civilian quarters is plunging constantly.

Commenting on the present situation at KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's request, the Finance Minister admitted that the Russian Army is in a difficult position. Even though it was supplied with fuel in 1995 in a new way — effectively for free: In exchange for fuel the suppliers' budget contributions were written off. In this way virtually all the financial targets envisaged in the 1995 budget were met.

But the question boils down again to budget realism. From the very outset it was clear that the defense spending which has been approved is patently too low. However, for some measures to be adopted funding for food had to be effectively terminated (this happened at the beginning of August), and a critical situation developed

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in military units. Then the government was forced to take an urgent loan from the commercial banks. That loan had to be repaid in December, with the result that the treasury did not receive the planned revenue in full. Tax arrears were around R60 trillion and the Pension Fund budget deficit was R20 trillion. There was a budget revenue shortfall of R19 trillion from foreign loans — our old debts to the West were repaid at high interest rates, whereas the budget was based on the assumption that they are going to be restructured. That happened considerably later than planned, however. The privatization revenue target was only 80 percent fulfilled even after the control figure was almost halved when the budget was amended. According to the Finance Ministry's figures privatization revenue in 1995 amounted to just R4.2 trillion....

Thus, instead of the long-awaited budget receipts December brought a demand for the repayment of credits, which created a financial "strain" and, apparently, was the main reason for the failure to settle the Armed Forces' wage and pay arrears by New Year.

At the same time the Finance Minister assured journalists at the news conference that after the pre-election promises a deadline for the settlement of the Army's debts was drawn up and has almost been met. Some R500 billion have not been released for the purchase of arms and military hardware. There has been a delay in the allocation of funds for soldiers' pay and a small debt will remain here. If tax revenue is received by about 20 January (it is still being paid into last year's budget), perhaps the Armed Forces will get an extra R300 billion or so. To cut a long story short, tears....

The Army community has indeed taken a new view of the problem of debts — both the state's debts to the Army and the Army's debts to state and commercial organizations. After the Finance Ministry's recent statements the question of where to find the many trillions of rubles already owed to the Defense Ministry becomes really acute.

There is one solution: The 1996 military budget must be reviewed and additional sources must be found to increase it and cover the Armed Forces' basic needs, at least. After all, even leaving aside the heavy burden of past debts, the money to pay for the Army's food supplies ran out last summer and will run out again this summer, too. And there will only be enough money to pay the wages of servicemen and civilian personnel for the whole year if the already low base pay is cut considerably.

When weighing up this option, Vladimir Panskov said that the Finance Ministry has never favored a reduction in servicemen's pay. But in his opinion, the base pay supplements introduced by order of the Russian Federation defense minister in January 1995 were unlawful because this form of expenditure was not included in the budget. According to him, the Finance Ministry has asked the government and the president a number of times to revoke this "unlawful" order. Mr. Panskov subsequently said that Colonel General Vasiliy Vorobyev, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's Military Budget and Finance Directorate, has been dismissed for implementing that pay increase, among other things. But of course you cannot take back from the soldiers what they have already been given....

According to Vladimir Georgiyevich, what we are dealing with here is almost an official misdemeanor. Yet the Defense Ministry was only making a desperate attempt to provide its officers and NCO's with the subsistence minimum or at least to reduce the difference between their pay and that of equivalent officers and NCO's in the Federal Security Service, the MVD, the Border Troops, and the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency.... After all, they are fighting alongside one another in Chechnya.

Of course, you might be thinking not so much about people as about producing the "ideal" budget. But unless the budget is linked to life, as we have been seeing recently, it will be worthless. Take Chechnya, for example. The sources of financing which have been approved allocate R1.2 trillion for the budget-funded sphere and the solution of social problems in the republic, R500 billion for the victims under the Russian Federation President's Edict, and R200 billion in subsidies from the Federal Highways Fund for road repairs. That is all the money there is. Once again there is not a single kopek for the cost of conducting combat actions. It is the same picture for many budget parameters.

It should also be noted that governments in democratic countries dismiss people not because they are bad at mathematics or basic book-keeping but because they cannot cope with the problems that affect the country's life. No one needs great crowds of theoreticians.

Russian Defence Ministry Denies Knowledge of Admiral Baltin's Release

LD1901114196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Defence Ministry, the Chief Staff of the Russian Navy and the Black Sea headquarters do not have information on a successor of Admiral Eduard Baltin, Black Sea Fleet commander.

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ITAR-TASS learnt at the Defence Ministry on Friday that "they have no even documents on a release of Admiral Baltin from his post of Black Sea Fleet commander".

The Black Sea headquarters and the Chief Staff of the Russian Navy "do not have information either on Baltin's successor". The above military structures have no official documents either (Russian president's decree or an order of the defence minister).

The above structures refused to comment on a resignation of the Black Sea Fleet commander without official documents or to say anything about his possible successors.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Unaware of Moscow's Plans To Dismiss Him

LD1801130996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SEVASTOPOL, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin is unaware of moves for his removal from office. Baltin stressed in an interview with INTERFAX on Thursday that reports on his possible resignation came exclusively from Ukrainian media editions.

He has received no information from Moscow, Baltin said. And, instead of serving someone, he has served and will serve his country, Baltin also said.

Earlier, secretary of the Ukrainian Security Council Vladimir Gorbulin told newsmen that Presidents Yeltsin and Kuchma agreed in Moscow on Tuesday to find a replacement for Baltin.

Commenting on whether the Black Sea Fleet was about to send a task force to Trabzon, Baltin said the Black Sea Fleet always had a task force on standby combat alert.

Earlier a Black Sea Fleet source told INTERFAX that the big antisubmarine vessel Kerch, the hospital vessel Yenisey and a minesweeper were ready to play a part in the release of the Avrasya ferry, in Trabzon.

The ferry, with 241 passengers aboard, was seized by hijackers Tuesday [16 January] evening. The hijackers are protesting against the war in Chechnya.

Federal Assembly

New Russian Duma Speaker Seleznev Interviewed

MM1901113296 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 5

[Interview with new State Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev by Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin; place and date not given: "Gennadiy Seleznev: 'I Do Not Like the Word "Speaker"'" — first paragraph is introduction; last four paragraphs are KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA note]

[FBIS Translated Text] A lightning interview with the new State Duma speaker half an hour after his victory:

[Ustyuzhanin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich, congratulations on your election to the post of speaker.

[Seleznev] Thank you. But... you know, I do not like the word "speaker." And I never use it. Nor the word "mayor." They do not sound Russian.

[Ustyuzhanin] The idea of handing in your party card for the duration of your chairmanship and rising above the fight did not occur to you?

[Seleznev] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy suggested it to me. I think he was applying the situation to himself since he has already run as a candidate twice. I was not faced with that problem.

[Ustyuzhanin] But the Duma is diverse.

[Seleznev] It is obvious that as State Duma chairman I must be above party interests. If I begin to lobby for the interests of my faction the deputies of other factions will not understand me.

[Ustyuzhanin] The "Yabloko" faction is planning to table a vote of no confidence in the government. Will you support it?

[Seleznev] As you can see the president has begun large-scale reshuffles in the government. We shall see what happens next. There have been Chernomyrdin's statements that we must review all questions concerning social programs. And the president has made statements to the effect that wages and pensions arrears must be paid immediately. We are demanding the same. We do not intend, at least not tomorrow, to raise the issue of a vote of no confidence. I have no allergy against contacts with the executive branch.

[Ustyuzhanin] How do you assess the events in Pervomayskoye?

[Seleznev] The undertaking involving the war in Chechnya is a very major political error. Wars have never ended rapidly if they have been initiated. But we cannot allow Russia to acquire the impetus to disintegrate as has happened with the Soviet Union..

[Ustyuzhanin] The Communists have come up with the idea of impeaching the president.

[Seleznev] If the law permitted it I would continue that procedure. But now, six months before the elections, we do not have the right to initiate it. [Seleznev ends]

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Autobiography

"I, Gennadiy Nikolayevich Seleznev, was born 6 November 1947 in the city of Serov, Sverdlovsk Oblast.

"In 1964 I graduated from the No. 21 Leningrad vocational and technical college and was sent to work as a lathe operator at the no. 730 secret plant (now the 'Kompressor' association). In 1966 I was drafted into the Soviet Army. After a year of service I went to study at the USSR Council of Ministers KGB Moscow higher border command school. I studied for a year and was discharged from the school for health reasons. In 1968 I was elected secretary of the no. 10 vocational and technical college Communist Youth League [Komsomol] committee and became an extramural student of the Leningrad State University named for A.A. Zhdanov. In 1970 I became a CPSU member.

"From 1970 through November 1974 I worked as an instructor and department chief of the Vyborgskiy Rayon Komsomol committee and instructor and deputy chief of the propaganda and mass cultural work department of the Leningrad Oblast Komsomol committee. In November 1974 I was made deputy editor of the newspaper SMENA and in February 1975 editor of the same newspaper. I worked as editor through April 1980. In April 1980 I was made first deputy chief of the Komsomol Central Committee propaganda and agitation department and in December 1980 chief editor of the newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

"I was married in 1972. My wife Irina Borisovna Selezneva (Maslova) was born in 1948 and works as a teacher at the Moscow public catering technical college. We have a daughter, Tatyana Gennadyevna Selezneva, born in 1973." (Extracts from G. Seleznev's autobiography stored at KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA).

New Duma Speaker Cited on Relations With Yeltsin

LD1801152896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 18 (ITAR-TASS) — Gennadiy Seleznev, the newly elected speaker of the State Duma lower parliamentary house, said at his debut news conference today that he is going to cooperate with the president and the prime minister in a constructive way.

Seleznev, who was moved for speaker by the Communist Party faction, said "the post of the house chairman simply obliges me for such a cooperation with the head of state and government chairman".

He referred to himself, Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin as "a businesslike triangle". With each of its angles of equal importance, it "can be only guessed which angles is sharper," he hinted.

He said the information which reaches Yeltsin's desk "is carefully filtered and for this reason it will be probably interesting for him to hear the view of not only of the State Duma chairman but also of the representatives of left-wing forces which won the elections".

The communist bloc came in first with 22 per cent of the vote, with ultra-nationalists led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy trailing.

Seleznev: Duma To Tighten Control Over Russian Government

LD1801205996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — The new State Duma will adopt no less than fifteen amendments to the Russian Constitution to tighten control of the president and Cabinet, Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, of the Communist Party, has said.

Seleznev told a news conference in Moscow on Thursday the fact that the State Duma's speaker belonged to the left-center part of the political spectrum met the interests of the whole triangle of power — the president, the government and parliament.

Seleznev believes that at a time when information submitted to the president and government is being "carefully filtered," they (the president and prime minister) may be interested to learn the opinion of the left.

"I believe that our contacts would benefit both sides," he said.

Seleznev pointed out that in discussing matters of national importance there would be no ad-libbing on his part. "I will express the opinion of all deputies," Seleznev promised.

He sees no reason why his membership of the Communist Party should be suspended. Seleznev believes such a step would be "hypocrisy and sheer formality, because my convictions will remain unchanged."

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Russia: Faction Leader Cited on Seleznev Speaker Post Deal

MM1901125196 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Pavel Anokhin: "New Duma Has Chance of Becoming Single-Party But Sane Deputies Will Hardly Allow That"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The outcome of the struggle for the speaker's seat was decided by the actions of the "overripe" "Yabloko" faction ["yabloko" is Russian for "apple"] which at the decisive hour supported the Communists.

In a talk with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent Russia Is Our Home faction leader Sergey Belyayev announced that Gennadiy Zyuganov had suggested to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy that they "form a threesome," that is that they draw up a package of claims to leadership in committees consisting only of representatives of these three factions.

What the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] and "Yabloko" agreed on can only be guessed but it was the votes of Yavlinskiy's supporters which ensured Gennadiy Seleznev the chair of speaker in the Duma. In the opinion of analysts, today there is a chance that all leading Duma committees will be taken by the Communists and pro-communist deputies, that there are every grounds of speaking of a victory for a single-party system in the lower legislative chamber.

It is not out of the question that Mr. Yavlinskiy's obediest fellow fighters will soon send the CPRF Central Committee a letter about the excessive concentration of power in the hands of the CPRF. And however much they may talk now of the new speaker's domestic program aims it may be supposed that he and his fellow fighters will not deviate from their general line — the communization of democracy.

Seleznev Set To Be 'Party Mouthpiece' as Russian Duma Speaker

MM1801172396 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 1

[Article by Sergey Chugayev: "New Duma Speaker Will Give Voice to Party's Ideas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Yabloko's" support led ultimately to G. Seleznev, a representative of the Communists, being elected to the post of State Duma chairman. G. Yavlinskiy's supporters justified their position, among other things, on the grounds that in their view G. Seleznev is the least of the "evils" proposed by the Communists for the post of speaker. That he is relatively liberal and could become an impartial leader of parliament.

However, immediately after his election G. Seleznev tried to destroy many of these hopes. First of all he categorically rejected the proposal that he leave the party's ranks, if only for the duration of his leadership of parliament (the present Duma leader's predecessors, let us recall, declared themselves nonpartisan). And not much later he openly informed journalists that of course in his new job he will take into account and defend the interests of the party that brought him forward. He rashly left its ranks once before, in 1991, and apparently he has no intention of repeating the mistake.

Those of the democrats who even today, in the Duma, speak of the new parliament leader as a potential liberal capable of pursuing an independent policy are either naive or are deliberately deceiving themselves. G. Seleznev's career enables us to draw the conclusion that the parliamentary term "speaker" is the most appropriate for him. Because his main life's work has been the disciplined voicing of decisions by higher-up party organs. And nothing more.

G. Seleznev's high-flying Komsomol career (in seven years he went from ordinary rayon committee member to editor of Leningrad's main Komsomol newspaper) took place during the years of the utmost stagnation, when the main qualities for a functionary were not intelligence and talent, but personal devotion and discipline. In this case, G. Seleznev was able to demonstrate his personal devotion to the then Leningrad boss G. Romanov. Which ensured his subsequent career rise — a transfer to Moscow, the post of deputy chief of the All-Union Lenin Komsomol Central Committee Agitation and Propaganda Department, and the leadership of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA.

However, following the party line, in the mid-eighties he dramatically changed his attitude toward the ideals of his Leningrad patron. The newspaper he led became one of the main mouthpieces of perestroyka, which is what gave G. Seleznev the aura of a liberal.

Perhaps the only independent moves by the present head of parliament were that ill-fated departure from the CPSU, and the attempt to put PRAVDA, which he headed during the pre- and post-putsch period, onto a market footing by forming an alliance with a Greek capitalist. Both moves, as is well known, brought him no laurels. The lesson, obviously, was learned. Basically, right up until 1995 G. Seleznev did not distinguish himself in any way in public politics. But he remained a disciplined executive functionary of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation]. For which he was rewarded in the previous parliament

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with the post of vice speaker. All this gives rise to the assumption that in his present post G. Seleznev will perform his habitual role of party mouthpiece.

Russia: Yavlinskiy Denies Allowing Communists To Claim Speakership

LD1801224796

[FBIS Summary] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 18 January carries in the "Details" program a 12-minute interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the Yabloko faction in the Russian State Duma. Yavlinskiy is interviewed by Nikolay Svanidze, the host of the "Details" program.

Yavlinskiy rejects media comment that Yabloko effectively let the Communists take the Duma chairmanship by selfishly pursuing its own interests. In a heated discussion with Svanidze, he defends his faction's conduct, saying it did the honest thing in voting for its own man and against Ivan Rybkin. The Communists in effect won the Duma chairmanship in December when they won the elections, he says.

Svanidze recalls that on 16 January an "emotional" Yavlinskiy accused television stations of waging an information war against Yabloko, by casting doubt on the faction's motives for scuttling Rybkin's candidacy. Yavlinskiy tones his comments down by saying: "Well, perhaps the word war was a bit of an exaggeration. But what often happens is that television reports on something of which it knows or understands nothing. It's not such a great sin, it often happens with journalists." "There's nothing more to say."

Yabloko put forward its candidate for Duma speaker and consistently voted only for that candidate, Yavlinskiy says. "But in reply to what was said earlier, the most important thing is not for whom the Yabloko faction voted but against what it voted. The Yabloko faction could not support Ivan Petrovich Rybkin as a candidate, because in our view Ivan Petrovich was the man who blocked the State Duma at the time when the Chechen war was beginning. He would not let parliament, the State Duma, act properly and clearly to stop the war. He was a member of the Security Council, that is, he bears direct responsibility for everything that is happening today." Rybkin failed to stamp out abuse and malpractice and, moreover, his party gathered about one percent of the vote in the general elections, Yavlinskiy concludes. That was reason enough not to support his bid to be re-elected, and Yabloko could not vote for their opponents, the Communists. So the faction proposed its own candidate and consistently voted only for him.

Svanidze reiterates the media's analysis of Seleznev's election: that Yavlinskiy and Gennadiy Zyuganov struck a deal. Moderate communist Seleznev could have the speaker's job if Yabloko received the chairmanship of two key committees, the international affairs and budget committees. By voting for its candidate Vladimir Lukin, Yabloko would vote against Rybkin and thus let the Communists through. Yavlinskiy dismisses that as ignorant speculation. "Voting for a chairman of the Duma is a matter of principle, not a matter of haggling, calculations, and pay-offs. It's a matter of policy. A matter of what we voted against, as I said earlier. We voted against Russia Is Our Home's alliance with Zhirinovskiy, in particular. We voted against those who want to push towards the Indian Ocean and against those who are today using Grads to destroy their own country. We voted against their candidate because he panders to all that. We did not and do not support that. We think that the government is now the source of the big lie in our country, the lie and the violence. So we cannot support the government candidate, we cannot support Zhirinovskiy's candidate. You've been so concerned at Zhirinovskiy, and now you say we should have voted for his candidate! We won't do that," he says.

But the point is in the result, Svanidze responds. It does not matter what deals were done. The Communists won the speaker's chair in the Duma because Yabloko would not join in against them. Visibly annoyed, Yavlinskiy says there was a wider point at issue here. "The communists got their Duma chairmanship on 17 December, when they won the elections. And they won the elections so thoroughly because the policies of the past three years, four years, the policies of war and the use of all possible means of destroying people, including Grads, have pushed people into voting for the most hard-line opposition that they can find. And they duly voted for them."

Russian Duma Council To Legalize Election of Committee Chairmen

LD1801220096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1931 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — After an hour and a half of talks, the leaders of four factions and three deputies' groups of the Russian State Duma reached agreement on electing committee chairmen by a single list, though there still remain some discrepancies, Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev told INTERFAX Thursday.

The Duma took an hour-long break so that factions and deputies' groups could discuss the deal, Seleznev said. The consultations will resume later Thursday evening so that the Duma Council can legalize the agreement at 10:00 a.m. Friday.

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The Duma will vote on electing committee chairmen and deputy chairmen by a single list at its plenary session, to open at 2 p.m. Friday, Seleznev said.

According to the deal, Yabloko deputies will retain chairmanship of the international and budget committees, Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy told INTERFAX.

The coordinator of the deputies' group Regions of Russia, Vladimir Medvedev, told INTERFAX he is unsatisfied with the deal, because it suited factions only.

Russia: Duma Factions Negotiate Distribution of Committees

LD1801210296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — Consultations on the distribution of posts of Duma committee heads began in the Russian State Duma Thursday.

At first, heads of party factions Gennadiy Zyuganov (Communist Party), Sergey Belyayev (Our Home Is Russia), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (Liberal Democratic Party) and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (Yabloko) held consultations behind closed doors for more than an hour, INTERFAX's parliamentary correspondent reports. Then they were joined by leaders of three groups of deputies, Popular Rule, Russian Regions and Agrarians.

Zhirinovskiy told journalists that the Yabloko faction wants its representatives to head two key committees, Foreign Affairs and Budget, Taxes, Banks and Finance.

The Communist Party faction is primarily interested in getting the Legislation Committee, while Our Home Is Russia wants the leadership of the Defense Committee, said Zhirinovskiy.

Earlier, representatives of the Communist Party also laid claims to the Security and Public Organizations committees.

Zhirinovskiy said that the LDPR faction is making compromises and ceding key committees to avoid feuding between factions.

Russia's Democratic Choice Deputies Seek Barsukov's Resignation

LD1801183396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (INTERFAX) — State Duma deputies representing the Russia's Democratic Choice (DVR) party demanded Thursday the resignation of General Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), as "responsible for the operation in the village of Pervomayskoye and for the casualties."

Duma deputy Sergey Yushenkov told a news conference in Moscow that "if Boris Yeltsin seriously intends to run for president on June 16, he must sack General Barsukov."

According to him, the group of DVR deputies (nine seats in the lower house) "will insist that the Prosecutor General's Office initiate criminal proceedings against the officials who organized the operation in the village of Pervomayskoye which led to casualties among the hostages."

Yushenkov upheld the Yabloko faction proposal to hold a vote on confidence in the government as an opportunity to discuss the situation in Chechnya. However, logically and under the Constitution, the president and power ministries subordinated to him are to be held responsible, which is why DVR deputies will not vote no confidence in the government.

According to him, the latest presidential decisions on government reshuffling demonstrate that Yeltsin is trying to seize the initiative from left-wing forces to win over the Communist electorate.

Yushenkov said that a joint session of the DVR political council and the executive committee on January 22 will determine "DVR's attitude to the president."

Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 31 Dec-6 Jan

96P50036

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Text Of State Duma 27 October Resolution On 'Crisis' In Schools System; Duma 25 October Resolution On Higher Education Funding; Plus Viktoriya Molodtsova Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 6) (950/200/1400)

Government 25 November Decree No. 1146 Enacting (Unpublished) Presidential Decree On Improving Taxation System. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 6) (300)

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Government 26 December Decree No. 1742 Allocating Fourth-Quarter Government Emergencies Fund Sums Of R84 Billion To Forestry Committee, R4.2 Billion To Environment Ministry To Cover Spending On Extinguishing Forest Fires. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Jan 96 p 2) (50) 3

Government 26 December Directive No. 1734 Authorizing Ministry Of Finance And Taxation Service To Offset Debts Owed To Treasury By Far East Firms Against Services To Be Rendered To Dalspetstroy Specialized Construction Administration. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 1) (200)

Federal Law No. 210 Of 27 December Introducing Amendments To Federal Law 'On The Central Bank Of The Russian Federation.' (Noscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 3) (200)

Yeltsin-Signed Federal Law No. 212 Of 27 December On Amendments To Federal Law 'On The Federal Budget For 1995.' (Noscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 4) (5000) (Text)

Federal Law No. 214 Of 27 December Introducing Additions To Article 83 Of Federal Law 'On The Central Bank Of The Russian Federation.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 3) (150)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Government 27 November Edict On Federal Targeted Comprehensive Program For Development Of Communications, TV, Radio Technical Systems. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 5) (400) (Text)

Government 13 December Decree No. 1232 Approving Statute (Not Published) Of State Radio And Television Programs Fund, Detailing Leader, Tasks. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 5) (300) (Text)

Government 13 December Decree No. 1233 Approving Model Statute (Not Published) For Regional State TV, Radio Companies, Ordering Federal Broadcasting Service To Approve Statutes Formulated On Its Basis 'Within 2- Month Period.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 5) (300)

Government 13 December Decree No. 1234 On Ensuring Distribution Of National, Regional TV Station Programs. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 5) (900) (Text)

Yeltsin 15 December Directive No. 542 Ordering Formulation Of 'New Concept' For 'Russian Universities' TV Channel Service For 'Informational, Cultural, Legal, Other Education' Plus Comment By State TV And Radio Broadcasting Company General Director Lysenko. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 5) (350/450) (Text)

Government 26 December Directive No. 1733 Approving Investment Loan From FRG Banks To Purchase Components For Modular Housing For Servicemen From Germany. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 1) (250)

Government 26 December Directive No. 1739 Okaying German bank Credit To Modernize Printing Plants, Listing Enterprises To Benefit. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 5) (450) (Text)

Yeltsin 26 December Edict No. 1303 On 'Questions Concerning The Leadership Of The Russian State Service Academy Under The Russian Federation President.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 3) (250)

Federal Law No. 213 Of 27 December 'On State Defense Order.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 96 p 3) (4300) (Text)

Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 7-13 Jan

96P50037

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parentheses indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1267 On Introduction Of Integrated System For Obligatory Expert Appraisal Of Quantity, Quality, And Price Of Exported Goods. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 5) (650)

Government 26 December Decree No. 1270 On Partial Change To Rates Of Custom Duty On Exports. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 6) (250)

Federal Law No. 218 Of 28 December On Budget Of State Pund For Employment Of RF Population For

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1995. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 4) (600)

Federal Law No. 221 Of 29 December On Russian Federation Pension Fund Budget For 1995. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 6) (1000)

RF Federal Law No. 222 Of 29 December On Simplifying Taxation And Accounting System For Small Enterprises. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 6) (3000)

RF Federal Law No. 224 Of 30 December On Rate Of Deductions For Reproduction Of Mineral And Raw Materials Base. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 4) (200)

RF Federal Law No. 225 Of 30 December On Output Sharing Agreements. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 pp 3-4) (8000)

Government 31 December Decree No. 1031 On Partial Change To 13 September 1994 Government Decree On List Of Countries And Goods Enjoying Preferential Treatment Or Otherwise With Regard To Importation Onto Territory Of Russian Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 4) (250)

Federal Law No. 226 Of 31 December On Changes And Additions To RF Law On State Customs [Service]. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 pp 3-4) (8000)

RF Federal Law No. 227 Of 31 December On Changes And Additions To RF Law On Enterprises And Organizations Profit Tax. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 5) (4800)

Federal Law No. 228, Signed By President Yeltsin And Dated 31 December, Adopted By State Duma 6 December And Approved By Federation Council 19 December On The 1996 Federal Budget. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 pp 3-5) (14000) (Text)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

RF Government 4 December Directive No. 1683 Approving Loan of $32 Million From France To Purchase Equipment For Modernizing Moscow's Water Supply, Plus Linkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 1) (300/900)

Presidential Edict No. 1221 Of 7 December On Establishment Of Council For The Russian Language Under The RF President, With Appended Statute And Interview With Ye. Chelyshev, Deputy Chairman Of Council Commenting On Significance Of This Edict And Work Of Council. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 6) (120/700/750)

Presidential Directive No. 55 Of 25 December On Various Measures To Promote Compilation Of Code Of RF Laws. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 5) (450)

Presidential Edict No. 1304 Of 26 December On RF President's Foreign Policy Council With Appended Statute Approved By Aforesaid Edict. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 6) (120/850) (Text)

Presidential Edict No. 1305 Of 26 December On RF President's Administration—Secretariat Of The RF President's Foreign Policy Council With Appended Statute Approved By Aforesaid Edict. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 6) (150/950) (Text)

RF Federal Law No. 215 Of 28 December Terminating USSR-Hungarian Republic Dual Citizenship Avoidance Convention. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 4) (150)

RF Federal Law No. 220 Of 29 December On Ratification Of RF-Turkmenistan Treaty On Extradition Of Citizens For Serving Prison Sentences. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 4) (100)

Yeltsin 30 December Edict No. 1336 On Releasing I.I. Indinok From Post Of Head Of Novosibirsk Oblast Administration. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 6) (80) (Text)

Yeltsin 30 December Edict No. 1337 On Releasing O.I. Betin From Post Of Head Of Tambov Oblast Administration. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 6) (80) (Text)

Yeltsin 30 December Edict No. 1338 On Releasing V.A. Suslov From Post Of Head Of Tver Oblast Administration. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 6) (80) (Text)

Presidential Edict No. 2 Of 3 January On Making Changes To Composition Of RF President's Council On Cossack Affairs. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 6) (120) (Text)

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Correction To 4 January Publication Of Federal Law On Amendments To Federal Law On 1995 Budget. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 96 p 6) (150) (Text)

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Yeltsin 5 January Edict No. 8 Convening Federation Council Session. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 1) (300) (Text)

Yeltsin 5 January Edict No. 9 Relieving Shakhray Of His Duties As Vice Premier. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 1) (50)

Yeltsin 5 January Edict No. 10 Relieving Kozyrev Of His Duties As Foreign Minister. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 1) (50)

Presidential Directive No. 12 Of 9 January Instructing S.M. Shakhray To Produce Within One Month Recommendations For Precisely Determining Functions And Composition Of RF Presidential Commission On Preparing Treaties For Delimitation Of Powers Between Federal Organs Of State Power And Analogous Organs Of Components Of The Federation. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 6) (300)

Presidential Edict No. 20 Of 9 January On Inclusion Of New Names Of Components Of Federation In Article 65 Of RF Constitution. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 6) (150) (Text)

Presidential Decree No. 24 Of 10 January Setting 16 January 1996 As Date For Moscow Mayoral Election. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 1) (120)

SECTION III: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RF Government 2 November Decree No. 1071 On Top Priority Measures To Improve The Ecological Situation In Chapayevsk City, Samara Oblast In The Period 1996-1998, With Commentary By V. Belov. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 96 p 6) (400/700)

RF Federal Law No. 209 Of 26 December On Geodesy And Cartography. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 5) (6000)

Regional Affairs

Russian Federal Security Spokesmen Denies TASS Report

LD1901095796 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting Aleksandr Zdanovich, deputy head of the public relations center of the Federal Security Service, ITAR-TASS reported today that no fighters have been found, dead or alive, following the night time mopping-up operation in Pervomayskoye.

In an interview to our radio station Zdanovich denied this.

[Begin Zdanovich recording] No, this is totally wrong. I don't know how they ... [pauses] The question was not whether any dead or alive were found there; the point was only that Raduyev has not been found yet, not yet.

Why have no fighters been found? First, it was not possible to inspect the entire area by the end of the day yesterday because there is a danger of mines. That is why sappers should work there. Today the search and the mopping-up will continue, and I cannot say anything before they are completed. I am going to give them [TASS] a ring now. They take too many liberties, don't they? [end recording]

Russia: OMON Sets Up Checkpoints in Belgorod Border Zone

LD1801135196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Additional measures to protect Russia's southern border territories have been taken by the Russian interior bodies.

[Correspondent Vitaliy Pidchenko] Belgorod region is on the Russian-Ukrainian border. Railways and roads that link central Russia with the Caucasus republics are passing through it. Increased numbers of militia patrols are noticeable several kilometers from the border checkpoint.

[Begin V.V. Puchkov recording, chief of the Interior Directorate of Belgorod region] Fifty additional militia posts have been set up throughout the border zone. This makes up a kind of third layer of protection after border troops and the customs. [end recording]

[Pidchenko] Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] officers are stopping every motor vehicle. Just some time ago militiamen discovered a well hidden arsenal of weapons in a truck, including grenade-launchers and radio-controlled explosives. A Chechen trace is quite probable. The smugglers have been detained and an investigation has been opened.

Additional militia check-points have been set up on bypass rural roads as well.

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Russia: Security Increased in Rostov Region

LD1801233596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1741 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bondarenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rostov-na-Donu, 18 Jan — Vehicles are being thoroughly searched on the roads of Rostov oblast and the drivers' documents are being carefully inspected. The numbers of police and servicemen at railway stations and on trains have increased.

The Rostov Region directorate of Russia's Federal Security Service and the Rostov Region directorate of internal affairs made a joint statement today. The statement says that for the last few days, round-the-clock work has been carried out on possible routes that may be used by Chechen fighters. Security has been stepped up at a number of strategic facilities in the town of Volgodonsk and in Tsymlyanskiy District. Additional preventive measures have been taken in other areas of the region.

Russia: Tu-154 Forced To Land by Air Defense Troops

MM1901120796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Ivanov: "Airspace Violator Forced Down"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Tu-154 on a commercial flight on the China-Krasnoyarsk-Vilnius route was forced by Air Defense Troops to land at Yekaterinburg at 2329 on 17 January. Following a planned stop in Krasnoyarsk the crew had taken off and set course for Lithuania without informing the Air Defense Troops and without going through customs.

Once the violator of airspace regulations was identified by radiotechnical troop subunits, Major General of Aviation Oleg Yevsin, the duty general at the Air Defense Troops Central Command Post, ordered the aircraft through Internal Affairs organs to return to its point of departure. But the Tu-154 crew ignored this order. And it was only after learning that fighters would be scrambled to stop the violation and force the aircraft down that the plane landed.

Following a customs inspection and the filing of a flight plan under the established procedure the aircraft continued on its way at 0924 on 18 January.

Russian Deputy Minister on Significance of Oblast Treaties

MM1901100896 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Jan 96 p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Kotenkov, Russian deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, by Dmitriy Orlov under the "Commentary" rubric; date and place not given: "Equal Rights for the Federation Components" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] As ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has already reported, treaties were signed last week on the demarcation of areas of jurisdiction and powers between the federal organs of state power and the organs of power of Kaliningrad and Sverdlovsk Oblasts. Our correspondent asked Aleksandr Kotenkov, deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, to comment on this event.

"The purpose of such treaties," A. Kotenkov said, "is to place all the Federation components on an equal footing by granting them the appropriate powers and to promote implementation and specificity of their position. [sentence as published]

"The special status of Kaliningrad Oblast is associated with its isolation from the main territory of Russia and its dependence on communications that pass through the territory of the Baltic states. Clearly, the customs barrier requires additional expenditure from the region which must be compensated for by additional powers for Kaliningrad in the foreign economic sphere and by granting it the status of a free customs zone. The overabundance of military facilities in the region also requires a special solution.

"The specificity of Sverdlovsk Oblast is equally obvious. It has virtually no food base of its own, but is overendowed with military-industrial enterprises. The treaty should resolve the problem of the oblast's participation in the management of the 'defense industry' and the sale of military output. For their part, the federal authorities take it upon themselves to help supply the oblast with food and agricultural raw materials.

"The process of demarcation of powers will not end with the resolution of Kaliningrad's and Sverdlovsk's problems. Similar treaties are expected to be signed at the end of January by the federal authorities and the leadership of Orenburg Oblast and Krasnodar Kray."

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Regional, Moscow Officials Wrangle Over Subsidies

MK1901090796 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Anna Sukhobok: "The Election Campaign Begins in the Far East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whether accidental or not, the first session of the government current affairs commission this year was almost entirely devoted to economic problems of the Far East, a region where the results of parliamentary elections for NDR ["Russia Is Our Home"] cannot be described other than dismal. A special piquancy to the discussion was lent by the fact that Soskovets for the first time appeared before the broad public in his new capacity — as chief of the presidential election headquarters.

That the government will have to demonstrate special concern for problems of Far East oblasts until June needs virtually no proof. NDR's poor showing in the parliamentary elections makes substantial concessions to regional authorities practically inevitable. The question therefore is only to take stock of the regions' demands and try to satisfy some of them by June. The first step has already been made: The commission of Soskovets, who was recently appointed chief of the presidential election headquarters, heard Far Eastern regional administrations out.

At first, the governors of the Far East oblasts, who do not often come together, were not very attentively listening to the first speaker, Deputy Economics Minister Andrey Shapovalyants, preferring to greet each other by exchanging handshakes. Moreover, Shapovalyants soon moved over to political matters. Addressing Oleg Soskovets, he reported, "Labor collectives are already making arrangements for the presidential election...." The first deputy premier interrupted the speaker and observed gloomily that Sakhalin residents demonstrated their political preferences on 17 December by voting for the Communists.

The house did not begin to really listen to the Moscow official until after the deputy minister stated that his department together with the Railroads Ministry is working out additional measures to expand the list of goods that will be transported at preferential tariffs. After this, it became very difficult to restrain the governors from making accusatory statements. Vladimir Shapoval, deputy head of the Sakhalin administration, recalled that the oblast had not yet received the promised 40-billion-ruble government credit to buy fuel, nor has the aftermath of the recent earthquake in Neftegorsk been dealt with yet.

The subject of fighting the elements was taken up by a Kamchatka representative. He said that, although the government has adopted a program for the seismic defense of the Far East region, funds for its implementation are being halved and, moreover, "are simply disappearing." In particular, Kamchatka has been waiting for the transfer of 20 billion rubles since November. Oleg Soskovets promised that Federal Security Service investigators would look into the matter. Gennadiy Afanasenko, deputy head of the Khabarovsk Kray administration, made complaints against the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, which was delaying the payment of wages to defense enterprise employees. Thus, no wages have been paid at the Varyag plant since August and at the Izumrud plant since November. Boris Ivanov, head of the Chita Oblast administration, proposed that a government session consider the question of additional subsidies from the federal budget for social facilities and housing in the Far East.

In the end, however, the main purpose of this session — to try to find a way out of the difficult situation — got lost behind a simple enumeration of economic problems. True, as is often the case at such government conferences, the usual reaction by federal government officials is also very well known — blame the governors themselves. Oleg Soskovets accused the visitors of having assimilated the phrase "Give us money" too well and of having no realistic propositions to make. The paradox of Russian life consists in that it is not "realistic" propositions which have more chances of being translated into life.

Economic Issues

Russian Expert Cited on Market Reaction to Chubays Resignation

MK1901071696 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "Sergey Pavlenko Comments on Market Reaction to Anatoliy Chubays Resignation. 'Such Decisions Do Not Go Free of Charge'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The main question facing the Russian leadership in the wake of First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays's resignation is to deliver on their earlier commitments and given guarantees. Such an opinion was voiced in a SEGODNYA interview by Sergey Pavlenko, head of the Russian Federation government Center of Economic Situation Analysis. According to the expert, the reaction of GKO [State Short-Term Bonds] and corporate securities markets in the shape of dropping rates is quite natural. "Acting as they are,

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the authorities are supposed to realize that such decisions cost."

Recalling that the market of state securities (GKO and OFOZ [Federal State Loan Bonds]) was being built with active participation of the former first vice premier, Mr. Pavlenko assumed that the duration of instability will depend on how quickly the market components make sure whether or not Anatoliy Chubays's departure is connected with changes of the economic policy as a whole. If the government gives reliable guarantees that no decisive changes are expected in the economy, the situation may stabilize rather quickly. Otherwise, extremely unpleasant economic processes may begin — "a crash of the GKO market would be quite sufficient."

The question of the economic course stability, the expert believes, also has a bearing on the IMF talks. If officials of the monetary fund see that the course remains unaltered, the results of the talks may be successful for the government. It is true, the expert stated, there is a considerable difference between IMF officials and Russian the private investors who have cast their lot with the Cabinet of Ministers by means of securities. The former can afford taking their time. For the latter, time is far from being an unimportant consideration.

Russia's Economic Performance in 1996 Forecast

MK1801074696 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian
No. 2, 14-21 Jan 96 (Signed to press 15 Jan 96) p 21

[Report by Vadim Ivanov, Vladimir Yelakhovskiy of Institute of Economic Problems of Transition Period: "Economy-96: Prognosis For Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This forecast was devised proceeding from the assumption that economic indicators will keep their stability gained in the second half of 1995.

Forecast of Economic Indicators in Russia for 1996 (in percentages)

	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	All of 1996
Industrial production	-0.7	-1.4	1.0	2.5	-3.4
Consumer prices	10.3	8.7	7.5	6.6	37.5
Real incomes (per capita)	-8.6	11.4	8.9	1.1	19.7
Real wages (monthly average)	-5.2	12.0	8.5	10.5	22.5
Unemployed (registered)	10.0	-0.4	0.2	2.6	13.0

Industrial production. Its quarterly dynamics may register a weak growth tendency. It will not be sufficient, however, to make up for an appreciable decline in July 1995, for which reason the overall production level in 1996 will amount to 96.6 percent of the 1995 level.

Consumer prices. The continuation of a firm policy to suppress inflation will further slow down the growth of consumer prices from one quarter to the next. The average monthly growth of prices will total 2.2 percent. Prices will grow by 37.5 percent during the year.

Monetary incomes of the people. Their growth will be determined by the growth of prices. The average per capita income in the fourth quarter will amount to almost 1,300,000 rubles a month. This will up the real incomes by 19.7 percent. The dynamics of real incomes, however, will be uneven: a 9-percent fall in the first quarter will be followed by a quarterly growth by 9 to 11 percent.

Salaries. The average salary shows similar dynamics. It will grow by more than 90 percent during 1996. This will lead to a growth of real wages by 22.5 percent.

Unemployment. The number of unemployed will grow over the year by 13 percent to come close to 2.6 million people in early 1997.

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International Affairs

Ukrainian Diplomats Help Turkey With Avrasya Hostages

LD1901111596 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — An operational headquarters has been set up at the Ukrainian consulate general in Istanbul to help free the hostages on the ferry Avrasya. There are diplomats from the embassy and the consulate general there together with representatives from Ukrainian departments, who have arrived in Istanbul. A joint plan of action is being jointly drawn up with the Turkish authorities on freeing the hostages, among whom, as you know, are Ukrainian citizens. The UNIAN news agency learned this at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

Kuchma Interviewed on Relations With Russia

LD1701233896 Moscow NTV in Russian 1635 GMT 16 Jan 96

[Interview with President Leonid Kuchma by Leonid Parfenov in Moscow; date not given — recorded; from the "Hero of the Day" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Parfenov] Good evening. Another 'Hero of the Day' program is on the air. This is Leonid Parfenov in the studio. A working meeting took place in Moscow today between Russia President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Our program carries an interview with Mr. Kuchma in the embassy of Ukraine in the Russian Federation.

Mr. President, for several months the press has been talking about a major treaty between Russia and Ukraine. Briefly, what is the principle of that major treaty?

[Kuchma] [passage omitted] For practically 18 months, since my election as the new president of Ukraine, I've seen it my main task to sign a long-term agreement between Ukraine and Russia on friendship and cooperation. It's absolutely clear what it's about. We're two neighboring states and we should unravel the knots, the problems which have existed since the collapse of the Soviet Union. We should draw a line under that.

[Parfenov] [passage omitted] What do you see to be the main problems in the way of concluding a full-scale treaty between Russia and Ukraine?

[Kuchma] You know, I always feel dissatisfied, and moreover, I am subjected to serious criticism over that, because if with anyone, Ukraine should have such a treaty with Russia. Ukraine does not have such a treaty with only Russia and Romania. I think one thing is necessary — good will — on both sides.

[Parfenov] It's lacking in Kiev and Moscow?

[Kuchma] Probably in Kiev and Moscow. I agree with you to a certain extent. [passage omitted] What is happiness? Happiness is when you're understood. So the line needs to be raised up a bit it for Russia to understand Ukraine's behavior. I think that this is the main thing today.

[Parfenov] In a recent interview in the 'Financial Times' you noted that the revival of nationalism in Russia presents the greatest danger both to Ukraine and to the whole of Europe. [passage omitted] Couldn't you explain in more detail what you meant?

[Kuchma] Well, take yesterday's statement by Zhirinovskiy that to resolve the Chechen problem a hundred peaceful citizens should be executed for every hostage. It's clear what that smacks of — absolute chauvinism. I cannot say anything else. [passage omitted] Such logic, such statements frighten people, not only in Russia, I think, but throughout the whole world, and in the first instance, Russia's neighbors. [passage omitted]

If we don't trust each other, no matter what pretty slogans we might put forward, no matter what good statements we might make, nothing good will come of that.

[Parfenov] Were there times you regretted what happened at Belovezhskaya Pushcha?

[Kuchma] As president of Ukraine, I should not ponder such questions, but as a citizen of the former great Soviet Union, of course, it is in my soul somewhere all the more since we have lost so much in that time that much more time is needed than that which has already passed.

[Parfenov] Since you have become president, in comparison with the duties which you had as head of government, is the range of questions, the type of approaches to them changed greatly? [passage omitted]

[Kuchma] Of course.The first thing is that it all depends upon who is sitting in the president's chair. One can assume responsibility. One can say there is the government and it should decide. The whole problem, I wanted to say, the tragedy, but the word problem is better, of Ukraine is that for three years we have been making declarations and not doing anything. As prime minister, I did attempt to get the economic reforms moving. I succeeded in little. Therefore, in assuming the post of president, the president is obliged to take upon himself all the responsibility today for moving Ukraine forward towards both political and economic reforms. Therefore, constitutional treaties, the constitutional, reforms in the sphere of the economy,

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have now formed a huge bundle of problems which is lying as a heavy burden, first of all, upon the president of the country.

[Parfenov] You said quite recently that in your view the problem of the Black Sea Fleet practically does not exist at all. So what does exist?

[Kuchma] It does not exist. What really does exist is trust in each other. Boris Nikolayevich and I agreed in Sochi then that we should be strategic partners in the Black Sea, too, and as for the form, it exists in the world, why shouldn't we have a unified command, I repeat a unified command of the two countries? There are no obstacles in this direction.

[Parfenov] You evidently know of the proposal which is most likely to be examined by the present State Duma of Russia on determining the status of the Black Sea Fleet as a subunit of the armed forces of Russia deployed abroad. What do you think of this theory?

[Kuchma] I think that it is absolutely correct. An end must be put to the uncertainty which exists around the Black Sea Fleet today.

[Parfenov] And say clearly that it is a Russian fleet in Ukraine?

[Kuchma] Absolutely, absolutely, because many are playing politics with that, including the military at the helm of the Black Sea Fleet, to the detriment of Russia's interests.

[Parfenov] What will the leadership be then if the Fleet is Russia's? Will it be equal leadership or will it be Ukraine's participation in its leadership?

[Kuchma] I think that the Russian Fleet should be Russia's, nobody else's. The Ukrainian Fleet is nearby. I won't speak of its capacity, and so forth, of cooperation. I don't see any other path, believe me, other than that of normal cooperation, and there is no alternative to that.

[Parfenov] After you became president, observers in Moscow expected that, unlike your predecessor, you were the logical supporter of greater integration. That did not happen, rather on the contrary. Do you see that is your fault or are you unable to influence that process yet? [words indistinct]

[Kuchma] I cannot agree at all with such a premise, because I was, and I still am a supporter of greater integration. But I must proceed from the interests, including the economic interests, of Ukraine. And how many proposals has the Ukrainian side put forward. Let's analyze it and say who is right or not.

[Parfenov] You think that there is less good will on the part of Moscow?

[Kuchma] Absolutely right.

[Parfenov] Kiev has stretched its hand out more often?

[Kuchma] For my part, I said at the start of our conversation that sometimes I find very uncomfortable to see seated on our Ukrainian Olympus, as it were, a man who is always making proposals which are always being rejected by Russia. I am a supporter of concrete actions. I am a pragmatist.

[Parfenov] Yesterday, Oleksandr Moroz, Ukrainian parliamentary speaker, sent you a message which says that the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station is counter to the national interests of Ukraine. What do you intend to reply to that message?

[Kuchma] I will wish the parliamentary speaker minds his own business.

[Parfenov] Proceeding from you pragmatic position, what do you think the fate of the Chernobyl nuclear power station should be?

[Kuchma] I am a supporter of the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, not because it represents a threat but because it is a symbol which to a certain extent just about put a brake on the development of nuclear energy in the world. That problem needs to be resolved comprehensively. Ukraine won't embark upon any other path today because from the point of view of safety the energy blocs which are not being used today present a threat. And the sarcophagus, or temporary covering whose life-span nobody knows today, presents a danger. And nobody can say either what processes are taking place there today. Six years' reserve of nuclear fuel, which is stored on the territory, has been processed. The construction of the sarcophagus, of the depot needs to be completed. There must be social protection for the people who are working on that sarcophagus today.

[Parfenov] [passage omitted] Could you define you politics in one word?

[Kuchma] In the center. [passage omitted]

Kuchma: Economic Cooperation 'Common Priority' for CIS

LD1801174796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, January 18 (Itar-Tass) — Ukraine will call for broader economic contacts at the meeting of CIS heads of state due in Moscow Friday [19 January], Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said.

He said before leaving for Moscow that the economic cooperation is a common priority for CIS members.

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"Life itself proves our interest in each other," Kuchma said, adding that normal mechanisms for stepping up the economic contacts are lacking.

He voiced the hope the the Friday summit would map out such mechanisms, with CIS leaders finding the common ground now.

A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman told Itar-Tass that Ukraine's delegation to the meeting would take part only in discussion of issues which meet Ukraine's interests and which do not contradict its laws.

Kuchma Rules Out Joining CIS Customs Union

LD1801182496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — This afternoon Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma flew to Moscow to take part in the CIS summit on 19 January.

Prior to his departure at a meeting with deputy chairmen of state administrations on issues of the agro-industrial complex on 18 January, Leonid Kuchma stressed that "in no way" would Ukraine join the customs union. The Ukrainian president also noted that Ukraine would not join any military alliance in the near future.

Speaking about the results of his recent meeting with the Russian president, Leonid Kuchma said it was "the best out of all the meetings he had held" and that Russia would continue "to be Ukraine's main partner."

President Kuchma Opposes Swift NATO Enlargement

LD1801212596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is opposed to revolutionary NATO enlargement to the east, he told a press conference at the Interfax main office in Moscow Thursday.

Ukraine has taken this resolute position since the very first day, though "Russia and Ukraine had a similar opinion on this issue for some time," he added.

According to Kuchma, NATO enlargement should be a long-term process evolving in accordance with the situation "emerging in Europe first of all, and by no means splitting Europe into two military and political blocs again." He added, "we will not endure new confrontation."

Commenting on the prospects for relaying Russian television in Ukraine, Kuchma said he would like to see "the channel broadcast in Ukraine to become a joint venture." He said the issue had been tentatively solved with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "Boris Yeltsin agreed with such an approach to this issue," Kuchma added.

Kuchma Comments on Problems of Black Sea Fleet

LD1801215196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1940 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — There is no problem in sharing out the Black Sea Fleet (BSF), Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told a press conference at the Interfax main office in Moscow Thursday.

"What remains is the problem of the territory, status and conditions of stay of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Crimea," he added.

"Ukraine satisfied all of Russia's wishes regarding the BSF basing in Crimea," Kuchma said. The main base of Russia's BSF will be in Sevastopol, but the Ukrainian navy headquarters will also be stationed there. Ukrainian warships will remain in two small bays near Sevastopol, he added.

Some differences in this issue still remain, Kuchma said. "This issue cannot be solved just like that," he added, saying the two countries' defense ministers will settle the details of the agreement.

Kuchma said the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministries will soon hold a joint collegium meeting in Transcarpatia to continue the BSF talks.

Chechen Fighters Reportedly Undergoing Treatment in Crimea

LD1901112496 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, [no date as received] — Fourteen Chechens who have taken part in combat actions are undergoing treatment at a military sanatorium in Saki. This information was confirmed for the UNIAN news agency at the Crimean Government, with the addition that "the representatives of Chechnya are Russian citizens and arrived in Crimea privately."

Mustafa Dzhemilev, the chairman of the Crimean Tatar Majlis also confirmed the information, adding that the Majlis had helped arrange treatment for these people.

According to him, he is in constant telephone contact with Zafer Karatayev, the Majlis representative in Turkey, who informs him of the events linked to the seizure of the Avrasya ferry by terrorists.

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Ukraine: Rukh Leads Support Statement for Chechen People

LD1801143496 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] has been made public:

A bloody war against the freedom-loving Chechen people, unleashed by Russian imperialism, is continuing. Armed with modern offensive equipment, many detachments of recruits and mercenaries killed more than 40,000 peaceful residents and destroyed 370 of Chechnya's 420 population centers. At present [word indistinct] the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry and armed forces control two-thirds of Chechen territory, having practically turned most of the republic's populace into hostages.

The Chechen fighters have been forced to respond with appropriate actions to the terror against their people, who have risen up in a national liberation struggle. Although in no way justifying terrorism in any form, we believe that a nation's right to freedom, to create its own state, to protect itself, is sacred. No one can deprive a whole people of this right.

The Russian regime's inhumane actions in Chechnya should be resolutely condemned by the world community. The great powers should become the guarantors of a just peace process to resolve the Chechen problem, taking into account the will of the people of Ichkeria for independence. There should be an immediate end to the escalation of great power terrorism. Peace and freedom to Ichkeria!

[Signed] Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the People's Movement of Ukraine, 17 January 1996.

National Affairs

Kuchma To Sign Power-Sharing Agreement With Government

LD1801213796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ukrainian government has drawn up a presidential decree on power sharing between the administration and the government, Cabinet Minister Valeriy Pustovoytenko told a news briefing in Kiev on Thursday.

"I think it will be endorsed by the president soon," he said.

(Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk speaking earlier last month stressed the need for delineation of authority between the administration and the cabinet of ministers. He announced plans of sending appropriate proposals to Kuchma soon - IF).

The minister described as businesslike the current Kuchma-cabinet relationship.

In the meantime, he said, agreement was reached that government-drafted economic bills would be sent to parliament without prior coordination with the administration given the involvement of presidential experts in working out such documents.

The minister said the cabinet was expected to submit this month or next a package of bills to help implement the government plan of action, which he says "must become the task of the nation as a whole."

At the same time Pustovoytenko said only 16 of the 47 government bills were considered by parliament, eight of them adopted and one being sent back.

Crimean Speaker, Deputy Address Anniversary Session

LD1801220396 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A joint festive session of the Supreme Council and Government of Crimea, devoted to the 5th anniversary of the recreation of the Republic of Crimea, took place in Simferopol today. Our Crimean correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov reports by telephone:

[Novikov] A report by Chairman of Crimea's Supreme Council Yevheniy Suprunyuk delivered a report at the session. The speaker reminded the representatives of political parties and movements who had assembled in the hall that on 20 January 1991 over 80 percent of Crimea's residents had voted for recreating the Crimean Republic as a member of the USSR.

The speaker said that this expression of the Crimeans' will had not been a mistake as some Ukrainian officials are trying to present it. On the contrary, the proclamation of Crimea's republican status helped guard the peninsula's residents against the negative consequences of the break-up of the Soviet Union and preserve peace and interethnic accord on the land of Crimea.

The speaker believes that in the near future Crimea will become a bridge of friendship between the Ukrainian and Russian peoples. To date, the peninsula plays rather the role of an anchor holding Ukraine near Russia's shores.

Deputy Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Vasyl Durdynets, who spoke after Suprunyuk, congratulated the Crimeans in very restrained terms on their anniversary.

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Those present in the hall noted that Durdynets addressed the audience in Russian. Evidently this means that the Ukrainian leadership is prepared to recognize Russian as a state language in Crimea.

At the end of the festive session, Mikhail Bakharev, member of the Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Council, read out telegrams of congratulations that had been sent to the Supreme Council.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Changes in Agricultural Procurement Policy Viewed

WS1801133796 Kiev ZERKALO NEDELI in Russian 13 Jan 96 p 7

[Report by UNIAN correspondent Yuriy Krot: "Do Not Expect, My Dear, Bread From the State.... The Government Warns: Purchases of Grain Will Not Be Financed From the State Budget"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Obviously, due to the fact that the term "state contract" has almost brought disgrace upon itself, a presidential edict on purchasing agricultural products for state granaries has the following title: "On Meeting State and Regional Requirements in Agricultural Goods in 1996." But, as a poet said once, despite the fact that the wording has been changed, it preserved our concept, because at issue here are sources of replenishment of state agricultural reserves, or what earlier was called a state order, and last year was called a state contract.

Individuals who participated in drafting the document say that changes will affect not only the title, but the essence of mutual relations between the state and agricultural producers of goods, or ways to organize and carry out deliveries to the state. Of course, it is difficult to call these changes untimely: Everyone remembers the liberalization of commodity-money relations in rural areas declared last year and the ensuing fever of foodstuffs purchases.

The history of the 1995 state contract is very deplorable. Although not a single issued karbovanets was spent on state grain purchases (this can only make one happy), the government failed to find resources to fulfill not only the entire state contract, but also one half of it. Despite the fact that state purchases were based on funny prices — $74 for one tonne of third-rate wheat — the volumes of purchases declared at the beginning of 1995, 10 million tonnes according to Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, were reduced to 3.9 million tonnes as of December 1995. An additional 1.9 million tonnes were handed over by agricultural producers for storage, which implies that producers have received only an advance payment for their grain so far, but they did not receive payment in full.

Perhaps due to this it has been preferred to not specify official figures on state purchases for 1996. It is only known that according to the contract with the state, this year, as well as in 1995, agricultural producers will supply only grain. Some data on state appetites, however, are already known. In late 1995, Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said at the all-Ukrainian meeting of agrarians that there are plans to purchase 5 million tonnes of grain on a centralized basis and an additional 5 million tonnes — based on local contracts. The last 5 million tonnes will be channeled to meet the food requirements of the people. The sources of financing food requirements of the people are the headache of local budgets, while centralized purchases — financed from the all-Ukrainian budget — will, according to Yuriy Karasyk, presidential aide for issues of the agroindustrial complex, be channeled to meet requirements of special consumers and to form state and intervention reserve [interventsionnyy fond]. By the way, the then Deputy Prime Minister Vyktor Pynzenyk promised to establish an intervention reserve back in late February 1995.

The differentiation between resources for purchasing food is the primary specific feature of the 1996 state contract and it principally distinguishes the 1996 state contract from "requisitioning of foodstuffs by force" which existed once and from the 1995 voluntarism. By doing this, the state has finally rejected not only its role of purchaser of "cheap bread for all", which it was reproached for until the beginning of the past year, but also from the role of a general purchaser of bread for the people. However, in 1995, the government did not get rid of similar intentions: The Main Bread and Foodstuffs Office tirelessly repeated that inflated volumes of the state contract are explained by the so-called subsidized regions in Ukraine, or such regions which due to various reasons cannot provide themselves with grain independently. A more than modest result of state purchases in 1995 forced to refuse from these objectives, at first in practice and now, as you see, in documents. So, only "special consumer," intervention, and state reserves will be formed based on budgetary resources.

There are also plans to change the procedure for issuing advance payments to state contractors. Although a Cabinet of Ministers resolution (it is still a draft document) envisages a budgetary loan to the tune of 5 trillion karbovantsi to purchase spare parts for equipment to be used in a spring sowing campaign and the return of this loan by grain suppliers through fulfilling a state contract, there are rumors that money will be given on condition the that farms return this

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loan in the form of money as well, but not in the form of state contract deliveries. In addition, many doubt the "viability" of the price of third-rate wheat which was also specified in this draft resolution — $100 for one tonne. This wheat will to be delivered on a state-contract basis. Yuriy Karasyk has quite definitely supported the removal of such price dictatorship from producers of goods.

There are also other sources of financing the sowing campaign, but, alas, only potential ones. For example, since long ago, the World Bank has been planning to issue a loan worth $250 million to the national agroindustrial complex. This loan has been awaited for six months: The strengthening of the control over this economic sector on the part of the state is an obstacle to it. Although the above-mentioned changes in relations between the state and producers of goods create an impression of being somewhat liberal, in reality, however, the path toward true liberalism is lengthy.

The figure of 5 million tonnes of grain for the requirements of "special consumers" is too large. As is known, only budgetary-financed spheres are included in the ranks of "special consumers." Total grain requirements of the entire population do not exceed 7 million tonnes annually. In addition, it is not quite clear how and for whom an intervention reserve will be set up, because, until now, the fate of an edict on establishing an agency of agricultural products market (there were plans that such a structure with the status of a state organization will implement commodities interventions) has been shrouded in mystery.

The situation with the state contract will be finally clarified no earlier than in early summer, as it always is. At the time, by the summer (given the preservation of last year's level of gross grain harvest and the immaturity of the stock-exchange market), the amount of products and their prices in the stock-exchange market will also become a most pressing issue. It is quite possible that the state, as it was more than once, will not have money to pay for the harvest, ordered and envisaged by 1996 contracts. Then we will see who will take advantage of currently planned changes in procedures for purchasing foodstuffs by the state.

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Belarus

Lukashenka: Minsk May Redeploy Nuclear Weapons

LD1801155496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka does not rule out the possibility of reconsidering the country's pledge to remove nuclear weapons from its soil.

"I am afraid we'll have to redeploy in Belarus the nuclear weapons that were withdrawn from it," Lukashenka said at a meeting with scientists in the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow Thursday. He also reiterated Belarus's objection to NATO's eastward expansion.

Lukashenka said that his rejection of NATO's enlargement made him unpopular with certain political groups in Russia as well as in the West.

"We are prepared to protect our interests on the western borders. By doing so we will also protect Russia's interests there," he emphasized.

"Russia has a friendly Belarussian army in the west. In the East you are capable of protecting yourselves on your own, I believe," he said.

Lukashenka Arrives in Moscow for CIS Summit

WS1801133596 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1100 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka today arrived in Moscow. He will attend a meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State. This has just been reported by our special correspondent Leonid Anop from Moscow. The president is currently at the Academy of Social Science, where he will receive a foreign member diploma. The head of state will address the scientists and will respond to questions from Academy members. From the Belarusian side, the Academy meeting is being attended by Presidential Administration Head Mikhail Myasnikovich, Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko, and other leaders. It is expected that after the meeting, Alyaksandr Lukashenka will meet with Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov [former USSR prime minister].

Today's program for the stay includes a visit to St. Daniel Monastery, a meeting with Aleksey II, patriarch of Moscow and all of Russia, and a trip to Zvezdnyy Gorodok.

Belarus: Minister Tsepkalo Cited on CIS Summit Priorities

MM1901090496 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Oleg Stepanenko: "How To Live Without Borders"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Belarus

What is the Belarusian delegation taking to the meeting [the 19 January CIS summit]? Valeriy Tsepkalo, the republic's first deputy foreign minister, answers this question for our correspondent.

"First and foremost, the intention to promote closer integration and cooperation between the CIS member states. Take, for instance, the question of the joint protection of the state borders, proposed by Ukraine. We are not opposed to it being examined. But the Belarusian delegation will champion the distinction between the internal and external borders of states within the Commonwealth. The agreement should concern joint protection of external borders. But if we give internal borders the same status as external borders, as the representatives of Ukraine and certain other CIS countries are suggesting, this could lead to the border proceedings between CIS members being tightened up.

"Our delegation will also proceed from the stance of strengthening cooperation in respect of the block of peacekeeping questions. Take the question of measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia. Georgia is insisting on applying economic sanctions. We are opposed to this. In the opinion of the Belarusian delegation, political methods of settling the conflict have not been exhausted. We are in favor of extending the mandate of the Russian Federation peacekeeping forces.

"Perhaps one of the most significant questions to be put on the agenda is the discussion of the draft concept for preventing and settling conflicts on the territory of CIS states. We hope that by the time the meeting begins, the draft will be completed. In particular, at the sitting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, which was held in Moscow 12 January, the Belarusian delegation proposed that the point on the preventive stationing of military formations in places which represent potential sources of conflicts should be excluded. You will agree that the very fact of categorizing any one of a number of troubled regions as potential sources of conflict could exacerbate an already complex situation there. At least the words 'at the request of the government' should definitely be inserted in this point. But by and large we are in favor of the draft concept that has been prepared,

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and in political terms we support Russia's peacekeeping role."

Belarus: Kazakh President's Visit Reviewed

WS1901095296 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0811 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The January 17 negotiations between the delegations of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Belarus resulted in the signing of 6 documents. Presidents Nursultan Nazarbayev and Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, a Treaty of the Legal Status of the Belarusian Citizens Permanently Living in Kazakhstan and the Kazakh Citizens Permanently Living in Belarus, and an Agreement on the Simplified Naturalization of the Citizens of the Republic of Belarus Who Arrive in the Republic of Kazakhstan for Permanent Residence, and the Citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan Who Arrive in the Republic of Belarus for Permanent Residence. The vice-premier of the Belarusian government, Mr Leanid Sinitsyn, and the Kazakh first vice-premier, Mr Nigmetzhan Isingarin, signed an Agreement between the Governments and Central Banks of the Two States on Measures to Ensure the Mutual Convertibility and Stabilization of the National Currencies. The Belarusian foreign minister, Uladzimir Syanko, and his Kazakh counterpart Kasymzhomart Tokayev signed a Consular Convention and an Interstate Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Science and Education.

"The documents signed in Minsk on January 17, together with the previous agreements on economic matters, have created a complete legal basis for goods producers and businessmen in the two countries," President Nursultan Nazarbayev said. Alyaksandr Lukashenka adhered to the same opinion. He singled out the basic Treaty which "creates a real corridor for cooperation between Belarus and Kazakhstan." The agreement on the mutual convertibility and stabilization of the national currencies was ranked second by its importance. In the Kazakh leader's opinion, trade relations based on barter are "a market in embryo." It is essential to gradually abandon them and to trade paying by money, not by goods. "Barter is extortion," Mr Nazarbayev said.

As the President informed reporters, their tete-a-tete meeting and meetings between the delegations were not reduced to the discussion of the documents due to be signed. They also discussed specific problems in trade and economic relations, in particular new forms of cooperation at the level of economic entities, and questions concerning payment for supplied products. The parties outlined a list of the goods the countries are interested in. According to Mr Lukashenka, Belarus is interested in the import of food grain, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and fertilizers. Kazakhstan intends to purchase agricultural machinery, tractors, BELAZ dump-body trucks and to restore trade in consumer goods.

During the negotiations serious consideration was given to the prospects of the Commonwealth and integration processes within it. "Confirming their adherence to the policy aimed at the strengthening of sovereignty," the joint communique adopted on the results of the negotiations reads, "the Presidents have confirmed their adherence to the idea of integration in the Eurasian space and emphasized the necessity to increase the efficiency of the CIS." For instance Mr Lukashenka suggests that the submission of joint Belarusian-Kazakh proposals for the intensification of integration for consideration by the leaders of the CIS member States should be one of the methods. In that way, according to President Lukashenka, they will manage to "turn these sittings from some wedding parties into arrangements necessary for the peoples." The Belarusian President holds that after the present meeting during which "all questionable points have been removed" and both parties' views on what is going on in the CIS became clear, the leaders of Kazakhstan and Belarus are ready now to make joint motions.

Dwelling on questions concerning the CIS Customs Alliance both Presidents agreed that today this Alliance is the most real and efficient form of interstate integration on the territory of the Commonwealth. Speaking to reporters both Mr Lukashenka and Mr Nazarbayev gave only positive assessments of the Customs Alliance. As for the possibility of other CIS countries' joining the Alliance the Kazakh President in particular noted: "Only those who want should be integrated within the framework of the Commonwealth, we should not pull anybody by force into a union." In the Belarusian President's opinion, the peoples of the countries that have not yet joined the Customs Alliance will make their leaders in the final end make this "historic compromise" which is, according to him, the Customs Agreement.

Moldova

President Snegur Leaves for CIS Summit in Moscow

LD1801190596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Jan 18 (Interfax) — President Mircea Snegur of Moldova left for Moscow on Thursday to attend the CIS summit which opens on Friday. There is a dire need to radically alter the methods of work of the CIS Economic Committee and remove artificial barriers on the road of developing

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mutually-beneficial economic ties, he told Interfax before his departure.

Concrete steps aimed at furthering traditional ties between the newly independent states will have to be taken after the exchange of views concerning the establishment of the CIS Customs Union in Moscow, Snegur said.

Participants in the summit in Moscow are also expected to discuss the possibility of signing a memorandum between the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and Moldova conducive to resolving the Transdniester conflict, he said.

In the framework of the Moscow summit, Moldova's delegation will take part only in considering economic issues, the president's aides told Interfax.

Dniester Accuses Chisinau of Provoking 'Cash Shortage'

AU1801214796 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2015 GMT 17 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau/Tiraspol, 17/01/1996 (BASA- press) — Dniester authorities have accused the Moldovan National Bank of hindering the transportation of new Dniester rubles printed in Germany to Tiraspol.

BASA learned from the Dniester administration that part of the bills are detained by Chisinau authorities.

In an interview with BASA, Leonid Talmaci, National Bank governor, dismissed these accusations. Talmaci said Tiraspol resorted to a German firm to print new bills which would replace the current coupon. Part of the banknotes were already transported to Tiraspol. The German firm sought approval from the National Bank to ship the bills.

"Of course, we said no. The National Bank is the only financial institution in Moldova which may issue banknotes," said Talmaci. He denied accusations that the National Bank deliberately causes cash shortage in Dniester.

Dniester leader Igor Smirnov told recently a press conference on the emergency state in Dniester that "Moldova buys Dniester coupons deliberately to provoke cash shortage."

New Dniester Constitution Proclaims Independence

LD1801175896 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Igor Smirnov, president of the unrecognized Dniester Moldovan Republic, signed a new constitution for the Dniester Republic on 17 January. This document, which proclaims the Dniester Republic a sovereign, independent, democratic, and law-based state, was adopted at a referendum that was held at the same time as the parliamentary elections on 24 December 1995.

Speaker of Dniester Parliament Retains Post

LD1801131296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TIRASPOL, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Grigoriy Marakutsa retained his post as speaker in the newly-elected parliament of the self-proclaimed Republic of Transdniester. Forty-nine of the 63 deputies voted for him Wednesday evening.

Marakutsa, aged 53, has the reputation of a moderate politician, who stands for maintaining Moldova's territorial integrity on the condition that statehood be granted to Transdniester and that Chisinau consent to construct relations with the breakaway territory on the basis of agreement.

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Kazakhstan

Iran's Habibi Visits Kazakhstan, Denies Mercenaries Aiding Chechens

MM1801160796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "The Serakhs-Mashhad 'Bridge' Will Unite Half the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazakhstani-Iranian talks have been held in Almaty. Questions relating to the development of the railroad, sea, and road transport systems linking the two countries occupied an important place there. Special significance is attached to the opening of traffic this April along the railroad route being constructed between the Turkmenistan station at Serakhs and the Iranian city of Mashhad. This railroad bridge will make it possible to unite the Pacific region with the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean and also with Mediterranean and European states.

At the news conference held after the talks H. Habibi, first vice president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that questions of modernizing the Kazakhstani port of Aktau and the oil terminals on Iran's southern Caspian shore were also discussed at the meeting with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. According to Habibi, there is an oil pipeline in the northern part of Iran which can deliver to Iranian oil refineries crude oil coming by sea from Kazakhstan.

The talks also touched on the question of defining the status of the Caspian. The sides agree that it must be defined as quickly as possible. The Caspian must be a sea of friendship and good-neighborliness. The Kazakhstani and Iranian sides advocated upgrading the talks to deputy foreign minister level. They will prepare the agenda for a meeting of the heads of the Caspian states' foreign policy departments. If necessary, a meeting of the heads of state will also be prepared.

The Iranian vice president was asked what he could say about the statements which have appeared in the mass media about the participation of mercenaries from Iran on the side of Dudayev's formations in Chechnya. Habibi emphasized in reply that the Iranian Government adheres to a position of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. What had been alleged were mere rumors and unsubstantiated claims, and it was necessary to proceed from the facts.

Kazakhstan: National Bank Official Views Inflation

LD1801215896 Almaty VECHERNYAYA ALMATY in Russian 12 Jan 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Uraz Dzhandosov [National Bank chairman of the board]: "We have moved away from the threshold of hyperinflation."

The former first deputy chief banker of our state, Uraz Aliyevich Dzhandosov, invited journalists for a routine conversation after he had assumed another office. He was recently appointed chairman of the board of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan by presidential decree.

Do the personnel reshuffles mean that "a new broom sweeps clean?" Uraz Dzhandosov tried to dispel this supposition, pointing out the achievements of the National Bank in curbing the inflation rate, stabilizing the tenge, improving monetary and credit policy, and introducing advanced accounting methods and modern office equipment, which were achieved with the personal involvement of the former chairman, D. Kh. Sembayev, his deputies and the members of the board, the composition of which has remained unchanged. It is possible to draw only one conclusion: The course that has been chosen is right and we will follow it.

Mr. Dzhandosov and two deputy chairmen of the republic's National Bank, B. Sh. Tadzhiyakov and K. K. Damitov, drew a picture of this state structure's activity last year without excessive emotion but with convincing statistical backup, a characteristic feature of most representatives of their profession.

The overall inflation rate was fixed at 60.3 percent (3.6 percent in December) over the past 12 months. Is this a lot or not? By comparison with the National Bank's forecasts, which envisaged 40 percent, then it is too much. But if we bear in mind 1994, when the republic was on the threshold of hyperinflation (from which, fortunately, we have managed to move away), this indicator is balm to the heart of every person in Kazakhstan.

The exchange rate of the tenge fell by just 18 percent (compare that with the inflation figure!). Let's look again at both sides of the coin. On the one hand, the national currency is stabilizing, and enterprises have received the opportunity to plan their operations and purchases. But on the other, exporters have gained considerably less than expected in tenge for each dollar of output imported into the republic.

As a result of the reorganization of the National Bank's internal system, 2,400 employees have been relieved of their posts (3,800 remain). They have found a use for

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their professionalism in similar commercial structures, which have been given some of the previous concerns of the Central Bank, and in the recently established treasury system.

The process of introducing Kazakhstan to world standards of accounting is going excruciatingly slowly and with the painful breaking of "Soviet" conceptions, but it is happening nevertheless. In the second quarter of this year it is proposed to introduce foreign (international) experience to ten commercial banks and to extend it to the others from July. By the end of this year the whole of the republic's banking system will work to world accounting standards. [passage omitted]

The republic's gross gold and foreign exchange reserves are continuing to rise: at the start of 1995 they were $1.2 billion, but as of 1 December they stood at $1.7 billion.

However, the leading bankers were more than cautious in their forecasts for this year.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov, UN Envoy Discuss Inter-Tajik Settlement

LD1801190096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov and the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon discussed various aspects of the inter-Tajik settlement in Moscow Thursday.

In the morning of January 18 Rakhmanov arrived in Moscow to attend the CIS summit scheduled for January 19, Rakhmanov's Press Secretary Zafar Saidov told Interfax.

The CIS leaders are to discuss the prolongation of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces' presence in Tajikistan, appoint the commander of these forces and consider the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, said Saidov.

He announced that during his talks with Ballon, Rakhmanov reaffirmed "the Tajik leadership's determination to solve all problems of the inter-Tajik settlement peacefully and to continue the fifth round of the inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat."

Tajikistan Foreign Minister Denies Russian Pressure

MK1901095896 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 3

[Interview with Talbak Nazarov, foreign minister of Tajikistan, by Viktoriya Grankina: "The Government Is Able To Solve Its Own Problems. Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov Maintains That Russian Troops Are in His Country on Lawful Grounds" — time, place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Grankina] What problems have you discussed at the meeting of CIS foreign ministers and what are the results of this meeting?

[Nazarov] We have discussed two issues: the prolongation of the mandate of peacekeeping forces and the appointment of their new commander for the next term. Most probably, General Valentin Zavarzin will be appointed. The ultimate decision on these issues will be made at the CIS heads of state meeting.

[Grankina] Tajikistan is an independent, sovereign state on whose territory foreign troops are being located. Is the country able to protect its borders using its own forces?

[Nazarov] We do not regard these troops as foreign. There are the 201st division and border troops in Tajikistan, and a number of arrangements have been made between Tajikistan and the CIS countries on the protection of the border which is not only a Tajik-Afghan one. This is a 1,400-km Tajik-Afghan sector of the CIS border. After all, not every small state with a population of 5-6 million people has such an outer border. It should be guarded by all members of the Commonwealth, otherwise internal borders have to be demarcated, the more so because 90 percent of the border guards are citizens of Tajikistan. The history of the 201st division dates back to the 1930's. This was the only division which has always remained and will remain in its place. Such countries as Japan, Turkey, and Germany are sovereign, but there are U.S. military bases on their territory. We, too, allow this division to be stationed on our soil. Another question is on what conditions the agreements have been made. For us, these conditions are mutually beneficial [sentence as published]. First of all, officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel are being trained.

[Grankina] The main problem which has gone beyond the state borders is intra-Tajik negotiations. How, in your opinion, can this problem be solved?

[Nazarov] The talks have been suspended. In the near future, however, they will resume, and we will conduct them within the framework of the protocol signed on 17 August between Said Abdullo Nuri, leader of the opposition, and Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov. An agreement has also been signed in Tehran on setting up a consultative body which will give recommendations to leaders of the Tajikistan Islamic Revival Movement and the leadership of the republic. The delegation of the

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opposition in the negotiations proposed that a National Conciliation Council be set up instead of Majlisi Oli [parliament], but we will not agree to this. The Tajik government is offering a cooperation within the framework of the existing constitution. We have once already trampled the laws of the Soviet Tajikistan, and this resulted in a civil war, which brought tens of thousands of deaths. The damage done has amounted to $7 billion, and one of the richest republics has found itself in a state of ruin and destitution. At issue now is a reintegration within Tajik society. This is our stance, and those who are seeking only power should give up these aspirations.

[Orankina] What are the priorities of Tajikistan's foreign policy? Who are your main partners?

[Nazarov] We have always said openly that our main, strategic partner is Russia. We are collaborating with Russia in the field of economy, too. At the same time, we intend to develop business, economic, political, and cultural relations also with our neighbors in the region and with far-off countries. Over the past two years, we have concluded about 100 agreements with the CIS countries and those of the far abroad. This year, there will be a lot of business contacts with foreign partners.

[Orankina] Is Russia dictating its conditions to Tajikistan, having geopolitical interests of its own there?

[Nazarov] As a foreign minister, I am experiencing pressure from Russia least of all. Today, the Tajik government is solving its problems independently, although advice and recommendations can be received from anywhere. During negotiations, the government delegation follows the instructions given by its own government rather than Russia as has been many times stated by mass media. The guidelines are provided solely by our constitution, our laws, and the agreements that we have already signed.

Tajikistan: Rebel Leader Calls For Jihad

LD1801132996 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 18 Jan 96

[By unidentified correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Terminology such as crucial, decisive talks has been replaced by first stage, second stage [of the talks]. But the prospects for these talks are being seen in different ways by domestic and foreign politicians. The Dushanbe regime is thinking about extending cease-fires, is using repeated empty phrases, and is preparing for the [next stage of talks on] 21 January. But the leaders of the Tajik opposition, who have not changed their political stand, support a peaceful solution of the problem. What options has the opposition prepared in the event the Dushanbe regime turns away from resolving the crisis? Here is a speech on this subject by Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Movement and of the United Opposition Forces of Tajikistan, on this subject.

[Begin Abdullo Nuri recording] For two years now we have been accepting every proposal from international organizations, from the countries of the region and the world. All the cease-fires we have accepted have only benefited the Dushanbe regime and have not worked in our favor. We have only one interest and this is to make the world community aware of the fact that we want to resolve the problems by peaceful means. [passage omitted]

The war and the bloodshed are a source of pain and bitterness for the people [of Tajikistan] and [Dushanbe] has forgotten them. So, it is clear that the path to salvation is not the one we have chosen, the path to salvation does not lie in us saying: Brother, give us our rights and we will come and live there. Dushanbe will not accept the term brother in this way. Only when a strong fist strikes the mouth of the person who does not recognize the nation, a strong political and military fist, only then will he say: Brother, let us sit down and work to save the nation. [passage omitted]

They will never want the problem solved through consultations. They will never want anything to be done for the nation through consultations. Only strength, only power [word indistinct] will force them to listen to the words of the people and [word indistinct] to come and propose solving the problem through talks. They will do this if we have the strength.

God willing, our people have belief, our people have purity, strength, and power and will never accept slavery, infringements on their rights, or ingratitude and, through struggle, through a jihad, they will save themselves and the rest of the nation from the hands of these people who go all over the place denigrating their own people and criticizing their national belief. [end recording]

Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Movement and the United Opposition Forces of Tajikistan, made this speech a few days ago during a meeting with Tajik refugees.

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Uzbekistan

Karimov Interviewed on Uzbekistan's Future Prospects

MS1901102396 London THE TIMES in English 19 Jan 96 p 10

[Report incorporating interview with Uzbek President Karimov; from The Times survey on Uzbekistan, p 10; date and place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Karimov is one of the few ex-Communist Party bosses to stay in power after the Soviet Union fell apart. He has consolidated his powerful position and bases Uzbekistan's economic development on his vision of what is best for his people.

The president is charismatic and gives the impression he has just one goal: to promote Uzbekistan and improve the economic lot of the fast-growing population. In a country which has still not shaken off the dead hand of Soviet-inspired democracy, it is not unusual for him to intervene in important commercial matters to get things going. Quite a few foreigners, the British included, can testify to that.

He has precise views on all aspects of commercial activity and as a trained economist, prefers the pragmatic approach: he doesn't relish foreigners telling him how to run his economy.

"Someone from abroad," he says, "may think he knows about our situation — how we must live, how we must develop, how to make our reforms, what kind of a state we must build and in which way. I would like to remind people like that about the words of Kipling — 'East is East and West is West'."

And despite his background, the president is dismissive of the old regime. "We are convinced that the command, administrative socialist system that existed here for 75 years is not suitable for us.

"Today, we observe the nostalgia for the old system in Russia. But I know the economics of the old USSR better than anyone else in Uzbekistan — everything, its vices, its insolvency.

"Secondly, the situation in Uzbekistan was aggravated by the fact that we were practically a colony, a raw material appendage of the USSR. Spiritually and morally, the communist system completely suppressed national culture, the language and everything connected with its traditions, self-respect and faith."

Although he is delighted to be free of Moscow, the president is cautious about reform. "One principle we have is: Don't destroy the house before you have built another one. It is one reason why many republics in the old USSR have failed. They have destroyed the basis and created nothing new.

"We do not reform things for the sake of reform. The shock therapy in Russia and other republics has discredited the market economy.

"Everybody realises the advantages of a market economy but we all choose different ways of achieving it. The speeding-up of reform caused the impoverishment of the people. I know there must be some cost at the transitional stage. The people must suffer some shortages. No one can avoid that. But it's a crime to carry it to absurd lengths."

President Karimov is equally firm on foreign policy. Ideology is out. "We don't accept fundamentalism, either religious or communistic," he says. "To the south, we have the danger of religious fundamentalism; to the north, communistic fundamentalism.

"Civil and social peace is very important to us. So is economic stability. We respect the faith of our people. The most democratic faith in the world is Islam. It does not lay down any conditions on those people who profess it. The situation in Iran, where religion is used for political aims, is not typical of Islam. Fanaticism is not one of Uzbekistan's characteristics."

On foreign investment, the president is forthright. "I think the period for [foreigners] studying the Uzbek market has come to an end. Foreign companies know our laws well enough and the A1 guarantee allowing them to operate — not only a financial guarantee but a political one. And they know our people are hard-working.

"Some 25 to 30 per cent of people in America can't write their own signature. They're illiterate, while 100 per cent of our people have had a secondary education. But the most important element is the political and financial stability. Business can be done in a country where there is stability."

Uzbek Minister Outlines Foreign Trade Prospects

MS1901103996 London THE TIMES in English 19 Jan 96 p 11

[Report incorporating interview with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Mr Sultanov: "Fostering New Markets"; from the Times survey on Uzbekistan, p 11; in London, date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At London's Metropole Hotel last November, businessmen from major industrial countries met at a two-day conference, "Doing Business in Uzbekistan".

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The British were there in force and the Government was represented by Lord Goschen, Minister for Aviation and Shipping. Altogether, 175 delegates, representing more than 100 companies, came from the United States, Germany, France, Holland, Switzerland, Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, Australia, South Korea and Japan.

The common aim was to get in on the ground floor now to garner future benefits from investment and trade with Uzbekistan. This was the second London conference on the emerging Central Asian republic and it is expected there will be many more .

The Uzbeks, knowing that this annual event is an increasingly important world business showcase for them, sent a strong delegation, led by Mr Otkir Sultanov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Economic Relations. He is the minister to whose office foreign businessmen beat a path when they arrive in Tashkent.

Mr Sultanov told delegates that Uzbekistan's import substitution strategy, especially for oil and grain, was already showing up in the trade figures. For the first nine months of 1995, trade was in the black to the tune of $419.4 million (262.14 million pounds) and trade with CIS republics, continuing a trend, fell to 19 7 per cent.

Mr Sultanov said: "Our calculations are based principally on the integration of links with developed countries which will help our economy. This has enabled us, since independence, to avoid a manufacturing crisis resulting from the collapse of economic links (with ex-Soviet countries).

"During the past three years, gross domestic product in Russia has fallen by 39 per cent, in Ukraine by 40 per cent and Kazakstan by 43 per cent, whereas World Bank statistics for Uzbekistan's GDP for the first nine months of 1995 show that it stands at 99.5 per cent of the 1992 level.

"One year ago, we bought four million tons of oil from Russia. This year, we purchased 350,000 tons. From 1996, we shall be self-sufficient in the energy field and, in 1997, we estimate we shall be selling Uzbek oil products on the international market.

"The structure of our imports has changed considerably, with an increase in the proportion of imported equipment and high technology of the future. This year's import substitution for basic foodstuffs and grain self-sufficiency has enabled billions of dollars to be released for the restructuring of our economy, reinforcing our conviction and our desire for large-scale relationships with western countries, Mr Sultanov said." [quotation marks as received]

He singled out the UK as a country fostering new investment and trade. "The relationship between Uzbekistan and Great Britain in trade and investment provides an ideal example. The turnover in trade between our two countries for the first nine months of 1995 was $206.3 million and is continuing to develop strongly.

"Fourteen British companies have opened offices in Uzbekistan and 18 joint ventures are operating. It gives us great satisfaction that UK companies are increasing their presence in the Uzbekistan market.

"BAT is investing more than $230 million in the development of our tobacco industry. Lonrho has embarked on a project for mining gold and, in the Fergana region, Meredith Jones is introducing new methods of selection, growing and processing cotton.

"The list continues to grow of projects with British participation in the areas of financial collaboration to establish a market infrastructure, to introduce reforms in the basic industries and to implement programmes for increasing exports."

On privatisation, he said: "We are now in a position to increase the speed of denationalisation and the privatisation of parts of the national economy, even in such industries as mining and energy, which other countries try to leave under state control.

"Today, two-thirds of our enterprises are already in a non-state form of ownership. But they are chiefly small and medium-sized businesses. The denationalisation of large-scale business is achieved by corporatism.

"The main thrust of our policy for structural change in the manufacturing sphere is the creation of enterprises which only have a non-state form of ownership by combining Uzbek assets and those of large foreign companies."

Representatives of such companies as NM Rothschild, BAT Industries, Siemens, Enron, BZW/Barclays, Daewoo and Meredith Jones were among the speakers. So, too, were those from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank. The keynote address was made by Mr Sultanov.

The event, organised by IBC UK Conferences, covered fully the commercial sectors in Uzbekistan and had experts speak on such diverse topics as taxation in Uzbekistan, privatisation, export finance, insurance, joint ventures, the development of banking and accounting and auditing.

Many delegates knew Uzbekistan well; others came to learn about a new player on the world scene.

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Armenia

Armenian President Departs for Moscow CIS Summit

NC1901130596 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1610 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Jan. 18 (NOYAN TAPAN)—Today morning the official delegation of Armenia headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan left for Moscow to participate in tomorrow's summit of CIS Presidents. Armenian President's Press Service reports. It is planned that Levon Ter-Petrosyan will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin today.

Yerevan To Propose CIS Interior Ministers' Council

LD1801175096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, January 17 (Interfax) — The Armenian delegation plans to propose in the course of the Moscow summit, January 19, the setting up of a CIS Interior Ministers' Council, a well-informed source in the Presidential administrating told Interfax - Ukraine on Wednesday [17 January].

In his words, Yerevan believes that such a Council is necessary for an effective coordination of efforts to combat organized crime in the CIS member countries.

The source disclosed that there is no specific agreement on the meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijan Presidents in the course of the Moscow summit. But the probability of this meeting on issues pertaining to the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict "is quite high", he said.

The Armenian delegation led by President L.Ter-Petrosyan will arrive in Moscow on January 18. The Prime Minister, the Interior Minister, the Defence Minister and the Minister for relations with the CIS, European Union and international economic organizations are among the members of the delegation to the summit.

Armenia: Dashnaktsutyun Figure Says Party Ready To Cooperate

NC1901130496 Yerevan SNARK in English 0759 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 18 January (SNARK)—The member of the Dashnaktsutyun party's Responsible organ which was formed by the Dashnaktsutyun Bureau elected last December, Levon Mkrtchyan, held today a press conference in Yerevan stating that the reinstatement of the Dashnaktsutyun party's regular activity in Armenia is their primary problem.

As reported earlier, late in 1994, the activity of the Dashnaktsutyun party was suspended because of violating some articles of the Armenian Law on Public and Political Organizations. In November-December, 1995, a decision on granting the Armenian branch of Dashnaktsutyun a special status was made by the 26th General Meeting of the party in Beirut. Dashnaktsutyun will have its Supreme Meeting and the Supreme organ elected by the Supreme Meeting. The current temporary Responsible organ should convene the Supreme Meeting as soon as possible in order to approve the new Charter for the Armenian branch. Then the Supreme Meeting will be dissolved.

However, it is still unclear if the latest steps taken by Dashnaktsutyun are in line with Armenia's laws. According to Mkrtchyan, they have not had any contacts with Armenian authorities and with the Justice Ministry in particular. Moreover, it is unknown yet if Dashnaktsutyun will run in the presidential race this September. In turn, Armenia's authorities have not react neither to the statement made by the 26th General Meeting nor to the formation of the Responsible organ.

Nevertheless, the Responsible organ considers there is a way out. Dashnaktsutyun is able and must assist in strengthening the independent statehood of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. Dashnaktsutyun is ready to cooperate with all political forces in Armenia, including authorities. The matter is that strong power can not exist without strong opposition, believes Mkrtchyan.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Denies Reports on Azerbaijani Aid to Chechen Rebels

LD1801163596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev categorically denied "the assertions that Azerbaijan gives aid to the Chechen separatists."

"It's a lie and slander," he told journalists on Wednesday.

Commenting on the media reports on Azerbaijan's aid to the Chechen separatists, he said that "such publications are usually initiated by the group of criminals consisting of Azerbaijan's former president Mutalibov, ex-prime minister Suret Guseinov, ex-defense minister Ragim Gaziyev who are currently in hiding in Moscow."

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"We oppose separatism, terrorism and extremism," said Aliyev. "Azerbaijan is not rendering any assistance to separatists, terrorist or extremists and resolutely opposes them," he said.

He also said that "the Russian-Azerbaijani border is securely guarded by the Russian border troops." "The border between Azerbaijan and Dagestan is securely closed, too," he said.

He noted that his country undoubtedly suffered from such a border regime.

Baku Says Chevron Can Use Pipeline To Transport Kazakh Oil

LD1801210996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax-PIA) — The Baku-Supsa pipeline meant for transporting early oil from Azeri off-shore oil fields to the Georgian terminal on the Black sea could be used for pumping oil extracted by Chevron in Tengiz, West Kazakhstan.

"Azerbaijan has given its consent to the transit of Kazakh oil across its territory in any direction except Iran," Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov announced Thursday at the Moscow signing ceremony for an agreement on the transportation of early oil.

He accounted the refusal to transport oil in the direction of Iran to the attitude of several banks that agreed to finance the construction of the pipeline on condition it does not cross Iranian territory.

Earlier the president of the Azerbaijani State Petroleum Company Natik Aliyev told the Petroleum Information Agency that Chevron received an official proposal concerning the Baku-Supsa pipeline. Besides, according to a source in the Georgian government, Chevron expressed its readiness to invest about $240 million in the reconstruction of sea terminals on the Georgian coast of the Black sea.

According to Aliyev, the possible involvement of Chevron in financing the pipeline to Georgia was discussed during last week's visit to Baku by Chevron Overseas Petroleum Corp. President Richard Matzke.

In Aliyev's opinion, oil extracted to the east of the Caspian could be transported by tankers from Aktau to Baku and pumped to the Black sea along the Baku-Supsa line.

Georgia

Shevardnadze: Recent Hostage-Takings 'Rooted in Abkhazia'

LD1801190896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze stated that the drama in Chechnya and the hostage-takings in Budyonnovsk, Kizlyar and Trabzon "are rooted in Abkhazia."

"The genocide, ethnic purges and mass executions of people of different nationalities, initiated by the Abkhazian separatists and foreign militants, have remained unpunished," says Shevardnadze's statement circulated in Tbilisi Thursday.

"Without the tragedy in Abkhazia, no other tragedies would have followed," stated Shevardnadze.

He expressed confidence that "friendly Turkey and its government will take every measure to save innocent people."

There are Georgian citizens among the hostages taken by gunmen on the Turkish ferry, the Avrasya, on Tuesday.

Russian Command Seeks To Use Bases in Georgia

LD1801130196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1027 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Representatives of the command of the Russian troops contingent in the Caucasus believe that after the Georgian parliament has ratified the treaty of friendship and cooperation with Russia, the deployment of Russian military bases in Georgia becomes topical.

The command is "interested in speeding up the solution of the problem," a spokesman for the Russian troops contingent told Interfax on Thursday

The treaty envisaging the deployment of military bases in Georgia was signed by the two countries' defense ministers.

Meanwhile, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze reiterated that the question on the deployment of Russian military bases on the republic's territory will be solved only if the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia are settled with Russia's help.

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Georgia, Russia Discuss New Route for Caspian Oil

MK1901073796 Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Irina Jorbenadze from Tbilisi: "Optional Decisions Are Possible Where Oil Is Found"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Georgia is holding consultations with Russia on a new route for Azerbaijani oil to connect the Caspian shelf with Novorossiysk through the territory of Georgia and Abkhazia, going further to Europe via the Danube.

According to sources close to the Georgian leadership, the new optional transit route is being discussed in Tbilisi confidentially, behind closed doors. Some experts believe that its implementation will help Georgia get Abkhazia back and restore its territory to Georgian jurisdiction. Most likely, the route will also suit Moscow because it will weaken the influence of Turkey in Transcaucasia as oil then will not go via Georgia to Turkish terminals on the Mediterranean.

According to informed sources, the Georgian-Russian consultations on that matter are being held at the level of experts. They also note Moscow's obvious interest in the project, as well as, incidentally, a great interest of Georgia, which will make the return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia a prerequisite for the implementation of the project. In the opinion of experts, Georgia is being driven largely by political interests because, in addition to the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, this will bring stability to its relations with Russia.

The position of foreign investors, who have become frequent guests in Georgia, remains yet unclear or unknown. By the way, recently Georgia has been visited by the administration of Chevron, a U.S. oil concern, headed personally by its President Richard Herman Mazke. Mr. Mazke noted that Chevron is interested in cooperating with the republic in prospecting, producing, and processing local oil. Although Mr. Mazke did not rule out that Chevron can participate in the transportation of Azerbaijani oil, he disclosed no specific plans on this matter. The president of the concern, however, said quite positively that his visit to Georgia produced a good impression on him and that the conditions for investment there are fairly satisfactory. As for Abkhazia, he said that the developments there and around it are of no significance for the oil business. He visited the ports of Poti and Batumi, examined oil storage facilities, and got acquainted with the capacity of the oil-bearing region of Suasa in Western Georgia. As a result of the visit, a quadrilateral agreement was signed between the Georgian State Oil Corporation, the Azerbaijani State Oil Corporation, the Azerbaijani International Oil Consortium, and the Chevron concern.

In a word, passions around Azerbaijani oil, after the oil consortium made a decision on its transportation in transit via Russia and Georgia, seem to be running high anew, in the good sense of the word. There are two mutually exclusive universal truisms saying that "there is always shooting where oil is found" and "guns go silent where oil is found." There is hope that it is the second scenario that will have the upper hand.

Official Criticizes Russian Role in Abkhazia

AU1801132896 Tbilisi DRONI in Georgian 9-12 Jan 96 p 3

[Interview with Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council, by Eka Khoperia; place and date not given: "'It Is a Paradox To Call the Enemy a Guarantor of Peace,' Believes Tamaz Nadareishvili"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, CIS leaders are gathering in Moscow on 19 January to discuss around two dozen pressing questions. According to CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korochenia, documents that will determine the activities of the collective security council and the actions of the joint peacekeeping forces in the CIS are already ready for ratification. Russian peacekeeping forces have been controlling a 12-kilometer strip in Gali Rayon for some three years now. To what extent they have fulfilled their mission is a matter for separate discussion. However, it is a fact that the peacekeeping forces are completing their term of duty and the question of whether to extend their mandate will also be discussed at this meeting. It is true that representatives of the Abkhazian Supreme Council have not yet been named in the Georgian delegation, but it is clear that they, above everyone else, are interested in the settlement of this problem. It is precisely for this reason that we spoke to Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic Supreme Council.

[Khoperia] Batono [Georgian polite form of address] Tamaz, you are probably better informed than anyone else regarding the current situation in Abkhazia and to what extent the Russian peacekeeping forces are carrying out their functions.

[Nadareishvili] The situation in Abkhazia remains critical; it became more acute particularly over Christmas and the New Year period. It was precisely then that we learned of the extermination of the Sanaia family and two neighbors who had come to their aid. Of course, this is not the first time such a thing has happened. What is surprising is that such murders are taking place in precisely the region that is under the control of the Russian

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peacekeeping forces. They not only view such acts of vandalism with indifference but also take part in them.

[Khoperia] Have there been any cases of Russian peacekeeping forces actually putting a halt to any crimes?

[Nadareishvili] Of course not. On the contrary, there have been cases when Russian troops have arrested our citizens ostensibly for engaging in partisan activities and have handed them over to the Abkhazians. For example, one has only to recall the Ruzgen Gogokhia affair [not further specified], which was widely publicized. The question arises whether the Russian troops have the right to hand over those whom they have arrested to the Abkhazian side. It is possible to draw just one conclusion from this: They recognize the illegal Abkhazian authorities. All the misfortunes taking place in Abkhazia stem from the support being given by these pro-Abkhazian peacekeeping forces.

[Khoperia] It is, therefore, all the more interesting to know what proposals our delegation will be presenting on 19 January.

[Nadareishvili] The Abkhazian Supreme Council has often discussed this problem. I have personally met with both Yakushev [commander of Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia] and other persons in whom I have expressed my mistrust. Furthermore, a session of the Abkhazian Supreme Council similarly expressed its mistrust by issuing a decree of its own. However, given that the question of the continuation of the mandate of the Russian troops is to be decided at the gathering of CIS leaders, this meeting acquires an historic importance. In my view, if the Russian peacekeeping forces really want to settle this problem of the return of the refugees and the restoration of Georgian juriadiction, there are no major obstacles in the way and it could be solved in a fairly short period of time. However, is this their wish? I personally am not left with such an impression. The one thing that these troops have done during the last two to three years is simply to establish an artificial border between Abkhazia and Georgia. This question should be raised on 19 January: The Russian troops should either be removed from Georgian territory or, if they stay, they should be given a specific period of time to ensure the return of the refugees and the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity. If the Russian Army is made responsible for the security of every citizen who returns, one can view the extension of their mandate as being justified.

[Khoperia] How favorable would it be for Georgia if the peacekeeping forces were given the status of a police force?

[Nadareishvili] There has been a certain amount of discussion in this direction. No matter what status is conferred upon the Russian troops, the most important thing is precisely the factor of trust. We should be certain that they are protecting our interests; otherwise it will turn out that we are granting our opponent police rights, as a result of which the Russian side, which is arresting Georgian citizens, will no longer hand them over to the Abkhazian side but arbitrarily put them on trial. I personally would refrain from giving extra rights to someone whom I do not trust.

[Khoperia] To what extent is it feasible for groups of Georgian police to enter the conflict zone along with the Russian Army?

[Nadareishvili] We have often raised the issue that the return of the refugees and the restoration of Georgian jurisdiction should be resolved by the corresponding Georgian structures along with the Russian peacekeeping forces. I share the view that this matter falls within the competence of the Georgian internal troops and not the defense [ministry], as we are dealing with an internal state problem. I am categorically opposed to the idea that the Georgian population should enter Abkhazia under the jurisdiction of troops from another state. In that case, we would not have any guarantee at all regarding their security. Therefore, the legal authorities should first be restored in Abkhazia and then it will already be possible to talk about the return of the population. It would be good if all this could be achieved by a joint Georgian-Russian force.

[Khoperia] Let us suppose that the Russian forces were given police status. How honorably would they fulfill this function?

[Nadareishvili] The point is that there is total disorder in the Russian Army itself (which differs completely from the Soviet Army that we know). Even Grachev's orders count for nothing, for the simple reason that he may have a deputy who holds different views and who will simply not follow his orders. This was unimaginable during the Soviet period, but it is a fact today. Such is today's Russia that it is difficult to make any forecasts. Therefore, it is hard for me to say whether the Russian Army will fulfill the functions that it will be assigned.

[Khoperia] That means there is a real danger that, if the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces were extended, there could be a repetition of what happened before in the conflict region.

[Nadareishvili] Such a danger does indeed exist. It would be correct if we called it a Georgian-Russian and not Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. We were fighting

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a patriotic war against Russia. I have the right to say this, given what I have personally witnessed.

[Khoperia] Does it seem paradoxical to you that we are giving a peacekeeping status to the troops of a country with whom we have been at war?

[Nadareishvili] Of course. Let me add that, when it was first decided to station Russian peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone, they included a battalion that had taken part in the seizure of Sukhumi. It is precisely for this reason that I view all this with suspicion.

[Khoperia] Finally, what proposals do you think the Georgian side should make at the meeting on 19 January so that there will be a certain guarantee of a settlement of the Abkhazian conflict?

[Nadareishvili] First, a change should be made in the mandate regarding the sphere of action of the peacekeeping forces. As is known, according to the current mandate, it covers 12 kilometers and it is forbidden to have heavy equipment within this area. However, let us suppose that the Abkhazians have a large amount of heavy equipment just outside this zone; according to the mandate, the Russian troops cannot control it. Therefore, the peacekeeping forces should control the entire region and ensure that combat equipment is removed from this territory.

Then, the headquarters of the peacekeeping forces should be transferred from Sukhumi to Gali or Zugdidi. In addition, provision should be made in the mandate for the creation of crossing points on the Inguri and Psou Rivers, which will enable the peacekeeping forces to let in people from both sides. Finally, it should be written into the mandate that the peacekeeping forces along with corresponding Georgian structures are obliged to restore Georgia's jurisdiction in Abkhazia and ensure the return of the refugees to their homes. If all this is reflected in the mandate and the Russian side accepts responsibility for its fulfillment, the adoption alone of such a document will have great importance for Georgia.

[Khoperia] All the same, will its conditions be fulfilled?

[Nadareishvili] Yes, because we will have written proof that the Russian side assumes responsibility for fulfilling its obligations, which can be viewed as a certain guarantee of a settlement of the conflict.

Russia Blamed for Abkhaz 'Tragedy;' Withdrawal Demanded

LD1801175696 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We hold the Russian Government responsible for the Abkhazian tragedy. Not only did the Russian peacekeeping forces fail to carry out an agreement signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994, but they have become accomplices of separatists and extremists. This is said in a statement made by the committee of the Georgian national liberation movement and addressed to the president of Georgia and the Georgian parliament. The statement says the political associations of the Georgian national liberation movement have called on the United Nations not to assign the status of peacekeeping forces to the Russian troops. The committee demands that all Russian troops be withdrawn from the whole territory of Georgia immediately.

Abkhaz Delegation Says Abkhazia is 'Russia-Oriented'

LD1801203796 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the so-called Abkhaz parliament Oleg Damenia, Stanislav Lakoba, Natela Akoba, and Foreign Minister [Leonid] Lakerbaia held a news conference in Moscow on 17 January. The conference focused on Georgia's initiative regarding the issue of Abkhazia to be discussed at the CIS summit. Demagogy prevailed in their speeches. The Abkhaz representatives maintained that Abkhazia has been Russia-oriented for centuries.

Abkhazia Rejects Tbilisi's Proposals To End Conflict

LD1801170296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Tbilisi's proposals aimed at settling the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia, which were prepared for the CIS summit in Moscow, "pose a plan for strangling Abkhazia and dooming its population to starvation," said the Abkhaz parliament in a statement received by Interfax on Thursday.

"In addition to the economic blockade, the plan provides for imposing a ban on all economic, trade, financial and other operations not only with the Abkhaz authorities, but also with all its legal entities and individuals," the document points out.

The approval of such measures against Abkhazia "would signify the renunciation of political means to settle the conflict and transition to military actions, which the Georgian leaders intend to carry out under the CIS flag," the statement says.

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Shevardnadze Plea to CIS on Abkhazia Deplored

MM1901091396 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 7

[Unattributed commentary: "Bisons and Foxes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of a scheduled "CIS summit," E. Shevardnadze has sent a letter to the Commonwealth's heads of state. The contents of this letter make it clear that he intends to enlist their support to rekindle the war in Abkhazia. The vocabulary used in this document is very telling. The leaders of the Republic of Abkhazia are referred to as "separatist leaders" and an "aggressive minority" who have "seized power over the whole of Abkhazia by force" and are pursuing a policy of "violence, terror, and ethnic cleansing against the non-Abkhaz population." The letter proposes that the presidents of the CIS countries "urgently and jointly" take "effective measures to regulate the situation in the Caucasus and in Georgia in particular."

E. Shevardnadze favored the Russian president with a special message. Using his very own patented brand of oriental flattery, which everyone remembers from the days when, as first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, he used to shower generous compliments on L. Brezhnev (a practice to which B. Yeltsin himself was not averse, incidentally), the "Georgian fox" imparted the following to "highly esteemed Boris Nikolayevich": "We received the news of your recovery with enormous satisfaction and are glad to see you full of strength and energy as usual. We wish you the very best of health for the good of Russia! Election day is drawing near and we are confident that the Russian people will entrust the right to decide their fate to those who successfully continue and deepen democratic reforms." As far as "deepening reforms" is concerned, Shevardnadze has his own problems, which he goes on to relate, complaining that implementing a program to build a market economy is "inconceivable unless ethnopolitical conflict is overcome." Consequently, he appeals to Yeltsin with the request to use his "authority and influence" and support proposals to "finally settle" the Georgian-Abkhaz and Georgian-Ossetian conflicts.

The mechanism for this "final settlement" is not revealed in the letter, but all the "i's" are dotted in the draft documents prepared by the Georgian leadership for the meeting of CIS heads of state in Moscow on 19 January. The "Mandate of Collective Forces To Restore and Maintain Peace in the Conflict Zone in Abkhazia" is an appendix to the "decision adopted by the Council of CIS Heads of State on a complex of measures to bring pressure to bear upon the separatist regime in Abkhazia." It provides for an even harsher blockade of Abkhazia, whose people are still enduring all the burdens and hardships of the recent war. The mandate demands "support for measures leading to political and economic isolation, and also the termination of all financial, military, or other aid to the present regime in Abkhazia." Furthermore, it envisages "carrying out a peacekeeping operation to restore and maintain peace in Abkhazia," which it proposes to make the responsibility of the "group of Russian forces in the Transcaucasus," although the number of armed forces "could be increased by additional forces from CIS member-states" as implementation of the mandate progresses. It even indicates the length of the operation — "until 19 July 1996," which could, however, "be extended by a decision of the Council of CIS Heads of State."

Extremely ominous plans with far-reaching consequences are proposed. In fact, they have already begun to be put into practice, even before formal approval by the "CIS summit." A statement issued by the Republic of Abkhazia's Foreign Ministry on 5 January 1996 noted a whole series of acts to tighten the blockade of Abkhazia on various pretexts: Vessels belonging to the Republic of Abkhazia have been banned from putting out to sea since 30 October 1995 on instructions from the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, and Russian Federation border and customs services have ceased to recognize passports issued by bodies of authority in Abkhazia on instructions from the same ministry. The port of Sukhumi is even closed to all foreign vessels. Abkhazia's Foreign Ministry interprets all these events as a continuation of the "Shevardnadze-Kozyrev plan," which aims to enforce the blockade of Abkhazia and suffocate its population. Although Kozyrev has been forced to leave his ministerial apartments on Smolensk Square, his adventurist policies continue to be implemented! Essentially, we are seeing a process of creeping "Balkanization" in the Caucasus, which will inevitably give rise to a chain reaction of military conflicts.

The Republic of Abkhazia's parliament has adopted an appeal to the CIS heads of state, in which it stresses that implementation of the "Shevardnadze-Kozyrev plan" will mean giving the CIS peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia police functions, introducing a full blockade of Abkhazia, and employing economic methods and methods of force to bring pressure to bear upon its people.

The appeal says: "Despite the fact that more than two years have passed since the end of Georgian aggression, Abkhazia's multiethnic population is still subjected to inhuman treatment, which takes the form of electricity being cut off in winter, Sukhumi airport being closed, and restrictions being imposed on the supply of fuel,

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food, medicines, and other essentials." But it seems that all this still does not warrant Shevardnadze-style "peace-keeping"! Abkhazia's parliament is sounding the alarm in connection with press reports that tough measures to bring about a "settlement," military measures included, will be discussed at the meeting of CIS leaders on 19 January at the Georgian leadership's proposal.

The "Georgian fox" is counting on inveigling Yeltsin into a new and brutal conflict in order to use "Russia's state might" in his own political interests. Sober analysts believe that E. Shevardnadze is trying to pull the chestnuts out of the fire not with his own hands, but with the hands of certain political circles in the current Russian leadership: He is seeking fresh escalation of the war in Abkhazia in order to weaken Russia's influence in the Caucasus.

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Estonia

Tallinn Not To Block Full CE Membership for Russia

WS1901100696 Tallinn BNS in English 1835 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 18, BNS — Estonia is not going to insist on being alone in withholding full membership of the Council of Europe [CE] from Russia, parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eino Tamm told BNS Thursday, [18 January].

The committee met Thursday with Foreign Minister Siim Kallas to discuss which line the Estonian delegation to the CE Parliamentary Assembly should take over a vote on the admission of Russia to the council, Tamm said.

"The principal consideration was that Estonia must not remain in isolation over this," he said. "What we must particularly take into account is that in May Estonia will take over the presidency of the Council of Europe."

Tamm noted it would not be solid of Estonia to continuously dissent in a situation where it has been a full member of the CE for a number of years and is next in line for its presidency.

In his words, the Estonian delegation to CEPA would have to keep lobbying to explain its position for as long and as actively as possible.

In connection with the Chechen hostage crisis, MPs from several countries are of the opinion Russia's admission to the CE should be put off, Tamm claimed. "If this should be the decision, Estonia too will vote for time-out," he added.

Tamm said the Foreign Affairs Committee and Kallas agreed the Estonian delegation, the committee and the Foreign Ministry would maintain an unbroken exchange of information right until the vote in CEPA to keep up with the developments in Chechnya.

The CE Parliamentary Assembly is scheduled to vote on full membership for Russia on Jan. 25.

"There is a possibility that members of our delegation, who have different party affiliations, will not vote uniformly," Tamm noted. "In any case, they'll agree on this in advance and it's hardly likely their standpoints differ cardinally."

Estonian Minister, Russian Envoy Discuss Cooperation Against Crime

LD1801185196 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1645 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Possibilities for Estonia and Russia to cooperate in the fight against organized crime served today as the topic of discussion at the meeting between Mart Rask, the Estonian minister of internal affairs, and Aleksander Trofimov, the Russian Federation's ambassador to Estonia. During their meeting it was noted that such cooperation must be carried out at the level of specialists and experts.

According to the ministry's press secretary, Mart Rask and Aleksandr Trofimov analyzed how the Estonian-Russian agreement on mutual legal assistance has been complied, with and discussed matters concerning aliens' passports and the issue of residence permits to non-citizens who are permanent residents of the country.

Latvia

Latvian Parliament Supports Peacekeeping Role in Bosnia

LD1801181596 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1401 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saeima, with 54 votes in favor, five against and two abstaining, today supported the participation by a unit of the Latvian Armed Forces in the NATO peace mission on the territory of former Yugoslavia. Deputy Julijs Druva read out the text of the resolution that had been unanimously supported by the Saeima Commission on Defense and Internal Affairs and the Saeima Commission on Foreign Affairs.

[Begin Druva recording] A subunit of the Latvian National Armed Forces should be sent as part of a joint military unit of the Republic of Latvia and the Kingdom of Denmark to take part in NATO-led international peace enforcement operations on the territory of former Yugoslavia for the duration of the mandate provided for by the UN Security Council's resolution 1031 of 15 December 1995. The resolution comes into force from the moment it is passed. [end recording]

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